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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you think the definition of who can own land in the CNMI should be changed to include long-time residents of whatever nationality?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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A privately built ship flies to the International Space Station with a load of groceries. ➤ PAGE 14

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The Philippines' chief justice denies stealing from the country's coffers. ➤ PAGE 15

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14 MONTHS AFTER LIFTING OVER 2-YEAR EMERGENCY

CUC is back under emergency

» Some lawmakers say EO 'unwarranted, surprising'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Fitial

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial placed the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. under a state of emergency again, effectively suspending regulations and allowing the reprogramming of funds to address cash, procurement and hiring crises, barely 14 months after lifting CUC's prolonged emergency status. Some lawmakers said yesterday such emergency declaration is either "unwarranted" or "surprising."

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Veto of HB 17-226 'very much likely'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Speaker changes mind, will no longer recall bill
» Inos to meet with retirees, lawmakers today on Social Security

Cabrera

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) dropped the ball on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial when he cancelled yesterday's session that was originally intended to recall his contentious House Bill 17-226. This didn't sit well with the governor who will "very much likely" veto the measure before it automatically becomes law on Friday.

Affected employees, however, are pushing the governor to sign it into law.

HB 17-226 allows non-retired members of the NMI Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan to withdraw up to 50 percent of their contributions re-

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DENTAL SUPPLIES

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick, left, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron combat correspondent, and U.S. Navy Lt. Travis E. Coffey, Marine Aircraft Group 12 chaplain, look through dental supplies in the dental facility on May 19, 2012. The supplies are for the U.S. Navy dentist on island to use during his free check ups with the Tinian people.

A year after Luhk sisters disappeared

Faloma Maleina

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Special Masses to be held
» Kids' mother arriving from Guam

Tomorrow, Friday, marks the one-year anniversary of the mysterious disappearance of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk in As Teo, Saipan, with still no trace of the two and the family still appealing for help to find

See LUHK on Page 4

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Local

Lacorte, Aldan lead new graduates of NMA

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

JOY B. LACORTE
Valedictorian

SUNNY FRANK L. ALDAN
Salutatorian

Joy B. Lacorte and Sunny Frank L. Aldan were bestowed their school's highest honors during the graduation ceremony for the Northern Marianas Academy at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on May 16.

Of the five graduates, Lacorte was the class valedictorian while Aldan the salutatorian. Both students, who were dually enrolled at the Northern Marianas College, also received their Liberal Arts diplomas.

Lacorte, the eldest of three children of Ernie and Jo Lacorte, was consistently on the President's List for both NMA and NMC. With her perfect 4.0 GPA, she was one of the recipients of the Academic Excellence awards at the community college—the only high school student to achieve that honor, says NMA principal Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong.

Besides her academic studies, the 16-year-old Lacorte was also involved in extra-curricular activities and community service. She was a member of NMC's Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, NMA Student Council officer, CNMI Youth Congress member, student mentor for the NMC Learning in Communities Program, a participant in the 2011 Pacific Youth Conference, and the CNMI representative to the 2012 Micronesian Youth Services Network Regional Conference in Koror, Palau. She is also involved in the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Lacorte acknowledged a lot of people who played a role in her academic success—her family, her school adviser and teachers, her church family, and God.

"It was a lot of hard work, many almost all-nighters, and prayers," she told *Saipan Tribune*. "Now, I'm thankful and proud that all the hard work has come to fruition."

Lacorte will continue studying at NMC, this time to finish the college's nursing program. She plans to pursue a career in the medical field and is thinking of going to Pacific Union College or La Sierra University in California, Southern Adventist University in Tennessee, or Walla Walla University in Washington.

"For now, I'll study at NMC because it's close to home and is more affordable," she said, adding that she plans to apply for all possible scholarships to support her studies.

Lacorte advised other high school students to plan, prepare, and be ready to give their all. "You have to be willing to push the boundaries and to do more than what is expected of you, to find the motivation that will drive you to it and really feel the accomplishment in the end. Make sure to do it with a smile," she added.

Sunny Frank L. Aldan was told about being the salutatorian a few days before graduation and kept it a secret from her family up until the graduation ceremony.

"When I went up on stage, I couldn't read my speech and I ended up speaking straight from the heart," she said.

Becoming class salutatorian didn't come easy for the 18-year-old. Aldan revealed that she was close to giving up because of all the pressure and challenges, having had to separate her school life from her social life.

"But it was my family that pushed me to go on. The efforts that I put in, they're all worth it," said the youngest of four daughters of Francisco and Ursula Aldan.

Like Lacorte, Aldan was also deeply rooted in extracurricular activities and community service. She was a member of the National Society of High School Scholars and the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, a member of the 11th and 12th CNMI Youth Congress, NMA Student Council officer, a member of the school volleyball team, and CNMI representative to the Micronesian Youth Services Network.

Aldan has been accepted at the Chaminade University, which has awarded her a $4,000-transfer grant. She thanked NMC for giving her "a good start" and her parents for their unwavering support.

"Take advantage of every opportunity you have," Aldan advised younger high school students in the CNMI. "In the end, it's all going to be worth it."

'Dog kennel project 95-percent complete'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office is getting help from engineers on island in coming up with a design for holding tanks that would allow for the full operation of the animal control shelter in Lower Base even without a connection to the island's main sewage collection system.

Henry Hofschneider, special adviser to Mayor Donald Flores, said Tuesday that the only thing that's holding back the opening of the kennel project is the sewage connection. Construction of the kennel, which began in December, is about 95-percent complete, he said.

"CUC has helped us in trying to design a way to connect to the island sewer system but they said it's too costly," said Hofschneider.

Based on CUC's estimates, the Mayor's Office would need about $70,000 to $100,000 to have a "forced line to the main system" for the kennel's sewage connection. The mayor has already requested for appropriation from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, to no avail.

Since the volunteer engineers are already working on the design of the holding tanks, Hofschneider said the opening and full operation of the shelter is "forthcoming" sometime in "late July or around August."

Hofschneider revealed that the Mayor's Office has already spent $65,000 of the $75,000 funding for the project, which was appropriated through Saipan Local Law 15-12.

The Mayor's Office has the responsibility to regulate and license dogs, cats, and other domestic animals and the kennel project is aimed at controlling stray animals that pose health and safety risks to residents and tourists.

According to Hofschneider, a total of 2,300 dogs have been registered with the Mayor's Office when they began the process in June last year "but there are still more out there that are not yet registered and are not controlled."

The kennel, which was built by students of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute by virtue of an agreement with the Mayor's Office and as part of animal control program, is composed of 40 individual holding cells and each cell can be used to hold two to three stray animals.

Saipan delegation wants end to 'lavish' Liberation fest

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) said yesterday that the CNMI government and the community are financially broke yet the Saipan Mayor's Office still pushes for usual "lavish" Liberation Day festivities that last a month instead of just having a meaningful Fourth of July Parade. Such one-day festivities, he said, does not make Saipan less patriotic.

"We are broke, and the last thing we should be spending our limited money on is a month-long or few weeks' celebration that costs taxpayers some $69,000 or $70,000. That could help with other more critical needs such as medical referral," Tebuteb told *Saipan Tribune.*

While he cannot make a decision unilaterally, he believes that SNILD will support a proposal to have a one-day festivity instead of one-week or one-month festivities.

» Lawmakers call for meeting with mayor on Tuesday

"After all, it's called Liberation Day, not Liberation Month," Tebuteb said.

Henry Hofschneider, officer-in-charge at the Saipan Mayor's Office, said yesterday that the Liberation activities are "not lavish at all."

"We're not asking for one month. We're looking at least one week. Even the mayor [Donald Flores] is open to just a parade on July 4. Even that will cost money," Hofschneider said when asked for comment.

He said the almost $70,000 they spent last year was for a "bare bone set-up."

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), chair of SNILD's Ways and Means Committee, said the mayor's office is contradicting itself when it said it was able to hold Liberation festivities without funding from SNILD and is now threatening to not have any festivities at all because SNILD does not provide them funding. Yumul said he defers further comments until next week.

Tebuteb issued a memo yesterday, calling for a SNILD meeting with the Saipan Mayor's Office on Tuesday at 9am in the House chamber. "The purpose of this meeting is to discuss issues with regards to 2012 Liberation Day Festival," Tebuteb said.

Hofschneider said the mayor and other staffers will be attending the meeting.

The delegation presented again yesterday the kind of expenses that the mayor's office incurred last year during the Liberation Day festivities.

For example, the mayor's office reported only $426 in raffle ticket sales yet spent $6,000 in raffle prizes and $1,445 in raffle tickets/letterhead printing.

The largest expense was tents rental at $12,960; followed by emcee/entertainment at $8,774; stage/sound system at $7,900; meal coupons at $5,250; float prizes at $4,500; and $4,102.33 in construction/electrical materials.

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Two try to sneak into Guam from Rota using rubber boat

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two male Chinese nationals who were rescued by Department of Public Safety Boating Safety officers from a distressed inflatable boat in the ocean near Rota last month were actually attempting to sneak into Guam, authorities learned.

In information filed yesterday in the U.S. District Courtm the U.S. government charged Jingzhi Zeng with one count of entering the U.S. by willfully false and misleading representation and willful concealment of material fact.

According to court papers, the 24-year-old Zheng has been in administrative custody of the Homeland Security Investigations since his arrest on April 23, 2012.

It is not clear yet whether charges was filed or will also be filed against Zheng's companion, Jingqiang Huang.

According to the charging document, Zheng entered Saipan on April 4, 2012, stating he was a tourist and was going to return to China on April 9, 2012.

Zheng, however, secretly intended to travel from Rota to Guam by inflatable boat, and once in Guam, to remain there, according to assistant U.S. attorney Ross K. Naughton.

HIS special agent Isra D. Harahap stated in an affidavit that, on April 22, 2012, Boating Safety officers on Rota responded to a distressed inflatable boat some two miles off the shores of Rota.

The officers located the boat and rescued its two passengers, later identified as Zheng and Huang.

The two presented their Chinese passports and the HIS resident agent on Saipan was notified of the incident.

Immigration records show that Zheng had overstayed his parole into the CNMI since April 16, 2012.

In an interview with Zheng and Huang on April 23, 2012, an HSI special agent learned that Zheng bought a one-way ticket from Saipan to Rota.

Huang allegedly bought the inflatable boat in China and brought it to Rota through Saipan. The two launched the boat at the pier close to the Coral Garden Hotel on Rota around midnight. The two initially said they were just going fishing.

Huang allegedly confessed during later interviews that they were attempting to row the boat from Rota to Guam. Huang reportedly said that once they land in Guam, they would contact a Chinese national who lives there to pick them up.

Zheng said he got the idea of sneaking into Guam from Rota through the Internet before coming to the CNMI in April 2012.

Zheng was served with an expedited removal order and placed in custody at the Department of Corrections awaiting deportation to China.

Tree clearing ensures safety of campers

The Beach Road beautification project of the Saipan Mayor's Office will ensure that those who will camp out for the Liberation Day festivities—if there is one—will be safe.

"July 4th celebration is only over a month away and we want to ensure that if we have that celebration, people can camp along Beach Road safely," said Henry Hofschneider, special adviser to Mayor Donald Flores.

He said the beautification project involves cutting or removing trees along Beach Road, which are dangerous as they are already old and are dropping off branches or are termite-infested.

"Part of the project that has been completed is the part where you can see the lagoon and the beach when you drive up south. It's beautiful," he said.

The project is projected to take three months to complete.

."As you drive down the Beach Road, please watch out for the workers," he said.

CUC is also doing a similar project to clear power lines of tree branches. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

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On-the-Street Interviews
MVA turns the spotlight on you as random community members are given an opportunity to share their views on various tourism topics in the Tourism Tuesday feature of the Saipan Tribune.
Radio Tourism Trivia
Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. "Did You Know?" and "Fun Facts about Tourism in the Northern Marianas" will be aired regularly throughout the month on Power 99 (99.5 FM), KZMI (103.9 FM) and KKMP (1440 AM and 92.1 FM).
Taste of the Marianas Competitions
Chefs' Competition
Start time: 6:30 p.m.
(Rear Stage)

Copper wires on Marpi poles stolen, again

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

About 2,000 linear feet of copper wire was found stolen yesterday afternoon from the controversial power poles in Marpi.

An employee of Maeda Pacific Corp., the contractor for the Marpi power poles project, called 911 after learning about the theft.

The employee told *Saipan Tribune* that the stolen secondary line was cut between the Buddhist Temple and Last Command Post.

The employee theorized that the suspect or suspects probably cut the line in at least two nights.

Only the primary line remains on the power poles as it is installed higher than the secondary line.

In July 2011, about 1,050 linear feet of secondary line was also stolen from eight power poles in Marpi.

Maeda Pacific could not touch the power lines because the Marpi pole project is on hold due to a court injunction.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on July 5, 2011, ordered the injunction that temporarily stopped the installation of the remaining power poles.

Govendo ordered that the injunction will remain after the May 2012 trial. An appeal, however, is pending in the CNMI Supreme Court.

The power poles are part of a $2.9 million project to build a Marpi public cemetery. Only two more power poles need to be installed to complete the project.

The injunction was issued after the Friends of Marpi opposed the project and sued the CNMI government.

CUC

From Page 1

With CUC under a state of emergency, it again operates under the Fitial administration's watch and its procurement regulations and other statutes are suspended until the emergency declaration is lifted.

"I find that CUC is facing cash shortages [that] threaten to halt power, water and wastewater services to the CNMI because of the lack of funds available for CUC to buy diesel fuel and lube oil for its operation," Fitial said in his May 18 executive order that was transmitted to the Legislature only this week.

The emergency declaration is for 30 days but can be extended or shortened.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, said the governor's emergency declaration for CUC is "unwarranted," although he said he respects the governor's decision.

"I just don't see any reason that warrants an emergency declaration. There is no alarming situation that CUC cannot address. I met with CUC's Mr. Fletcher and there's no sign that CUC needs to be placed under a state of emergency. CUC is now in a much better position, we don't have rolling blackouts," Ayuyu told *Saipan Tribune.*

Even without a Public Utilities Commission, Ayuyu believes that CUC can move forward with its renewable energy projects.

"If anything, what people are most concerned about are still the high CUC rates, although they understand that CUC is also in a tight financial situation," he added.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, said he has yet to fully read the text of the emergency declaration but he thought all along that CUC can now operate on its own.

"That [emergency declaration] is surprising," he said.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's PUTC Committee, said he's also "very surprised" that CUC is under a state of emergency again.

"I just got back from San Diego [California] with [CUC executive director] Abe Malae and Wallon Young at CUC. We went to attend a presentation on new generation nuclear technology [that] is not conventional but safe. I will have more information on the emergency declaration by the governor. I am very surprised," he said. Dela Cruz returned yesterday.

When asked which reason for the emergency declaration is the most urgent, press secretary Angel Demapan said, "All of it."

"All these issues need to be addressed in order to reach the administration's ultimate goal—to bring affordable and reliable utilities to the people," Demapan said.

Fitial first placed CUC under emergency status on Aug. 1, 2008, to enable it to skirt procurement and other laws to solve rolling blackouts and imminent power generation failure. The governor had been extending the emergency declaration month to month. CUC entered its 31st month under a state of emergency in February 2011.

On March 28, 2011, he lifted the emergency declaration for CUC.

Fitial's latest emergency declaration for CUC allows him to (1) suspend all statutory or regulatory provisions as required; and (2) reprogram the funds necessary to meet the emergency.

Cash crisis

The governor, in his seven-page EO 2012-05, said that CUC is owed over $8 million in unpaid obligations by the cash-strapped government, the Public School System, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

CUC is also owed over $4 million by residential users and is facing $2.6 million in accounts payable to vendors who have, in good faith, provided materials and other services, the governor said.

"CUC only has days' worth of purchased diesel fuel to power its system because it lacks the funds to buy oil from its sole, cash-only supplier. CUC has no credit or other means to buy fuel than the revenue it collects from its customers," Fitial said.

CUC also has shipments of urgently needed transformers, transformer pads and poles en route or on island that will not be released unless it pays approximately $930,000 to vendors.

"Without these materials, CUC faces great danger to its system if a typhoon or any natural event interrupts service, and CUC will not be able to quickly recover," he added.

Renewable energy crisis

The Fitial administration has reportedly been having difficulty awarding contracts to companies engaged in renewable energy projects because of the question whether a nonfunctioning PUC must still review CUC's contracts once a request for proposal is complete. PUC lacks a quorum.

If a procurement crisis is one of the reasons for the emergency declaration, Torres said this should be a wake up call to the Senate, which has yet to confirm the governor's three nominees to PUC.

The House confirmed three PUC nominees last week even before receiving the results of their drug tests.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations, will be holding a public hearing on the three PUC nominations today.

Fitial said CUC has gone through the RFP process for several renewable energy projects, which would bring some relief to high utility rates.

"There is a question open as to whether the PUC must review CUC's renewable emergency contracts once an RFP is complete. These contracts must be brought to completion as soon as possible or the customers of CUC will continue to suffer from high oil prices," he said.

Technical worker crisis

The governor said that CUC, which requires employees with specialized training, also faces a manpower crisis.

There are many non-U.S. citizens that CUC needs to retain on technical and professional contracts or CUC's operations would be severely compromised.

With the governor's emergency declaration, CUC would still be able to hire "approximately two dozen essential foreign expert workers" regardless of a legislative prohibition.

Fitial added that CUC remains without a board of directors.

His latest emergency declaration has three directives, including assuming all of the executive power of CUC, which shall include all powers vested in the board of directors and the executive director.

The second directive involves the suspension of all provisions of Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code and Public Law 17-34 that concern PUC regulation of CUC and its actions, and potentially, any oversight of renewable energy contracts.

The third directive lifts restrictions on government employment at CUC.

LUHK

From Page 1

the girls.

The family will hold on Friday a simultaneous 6pm Special Mass at Santa Soledad Church and San Antonio Church. Jermain Quitugua, the mother of the Luhk sisters, is expected to arrive on Saipan today, Thursday, from Guam, according to Elbert Quitugua, father of Jermain.

"We're begging to everybody to help us locate the children," said Elbert Quitugua in an interview yesterday. "Anybody out there who has any information should step forward and report to the federal and local authorities."

He said it has been a sad and very difficult time for the family, especially for Jermain who still doesn't know the whereabouts of her daughters.

Elbert Quitugua said he is thankful that DPS and FBI are still working to solve the case or find his granddaughters.

In a statement yesterday, FBI special agent Tom Simon said the FBI and police will pursue any new leads that arise and investigate them to their logical conclusion.

"We encourage the public to contact us with any new information, which may be of value in this case," said Simon in an email.

He said the FBI would like to recognize the continued cooperation of the Luhk girls' family in the investigation. "We sincerely appreciate their willingness to work with us in hopes of bringing this troubling case to a resolution," he said.

Simon said he can't discuss details regarding leads or suspects.

As of press time, DPS had yet to reply to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for an update on the investigation.

Then 10-year-old Faloma and 9-year-old Maleina were last seen on May 25, 2011, near a bus stop pavilion in As Teo.

Their baffling disappearance and subsequent efforts to locate them triggered the most extensive searches in CNMI history, with FBI agents and DPS officers combing a landfill, caves, jungles, beaches, cliff lines, underwater, villages, abandoned buildings, and other areas for several months. Many civilian volunteers, including a tracking dog from Hawaii, joined some of those searches. The military joined the aerial searches.

Despite a $50,000 cash reward put up for information on the whereabouts of the Luhk sisters, authorities still failed to find them. No one has been arrested yet.

Alan Santos Aguon, a former DPS firefighter who reportedly refused to undergo a lie detector test in connection with the investigation into the Luhk sisters' disappearance, was recently arrested in Burien, Washington state for domestic violence.

DPS investigators at the time refused to name the firefighter, who was only tagged as a "person of interest."

Aguon resigned from DPS last year. Sources said he left Saipan on Aug. 6, 2011, to reunite with his wife and children in Washington state.

VETO

From Page 1

gardless of years of service and without penalty or the need for them to quit their job.

Under the bill, the rest of the employee contributions to the Fund will be rolled over to the defined contribution plan.

Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos asked Cabrera and the rest of the House members on Friday to recall or withdraw HB 17-226 because it does not help the government's plan to return to the U.S. Social Security system. The cash-strapped Retirement Fund sought bankruptcy protection on April 17.

Cabrera initially agreed to withdraw his bill but had a change of heart after further consideration.

Joe Pangelinan, one of the strong proponents of HB 17-226, said he was a bit disappointed when he heard Friday that the speaker will recall his own bill "after too much work and compromise has been put to it."

"After much consideration, the speaker said he will not withdraw it or recall it. He leaves it up to the governor to decide what to do with the bill," Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune.*

Pangelinan said he submitted to the governor's office on Tuesday the original petition with over 800 signatures asking for the passage and signing of HB 17-226.

"This bill will give DB members an option to withdraw [a] portion of their contribution without penalty. Our group has long wanted to meet with the governor on this but we're never given a chance," he added.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said, "The Fitial administration is disappointed to find out that the House has decided against recalling HB 17-226."

As of yesterday, the bill remains pending before the governor, Demapan said.

"Given that the administration has taken steps to engage SSA officials on the proposed transfer of active government employees out of the DB plan and into the social security program, a veto of the bill is very much likely, but not determined at this time," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

The press secretary said HB 17-226 was discussed at length on Friday when the governor and lieutenant governor met with House members.

He said the administration made it very clear that it would be best if the bill is recalled so that amendments can be made to it in order for the intent of the bill to be conducive to the ongoing negotiations between the administration and the Social Security Administration on the matter of having active government employees opt back into the social security program.

At that meeting, he said, House members indicated willingness to recall the bill based on the information provided them by Fitial and Inos.

"It is quite baffling to learn that their position has since changed," Demapan added.

Demapan also said the Fitial administration recognizes that some lawmakers are concerned because the Social Security negotiations are still ongoing.

"Having said such, this is exactly why the administration hoped that the House would have gone the route of recalling the bill, and if the negotiations don't come to fruition, then the bill can be introduced again and any outstanding concerns can be addressed before passage," he said.

Inos, meanwhile, is set to meet this morning with the Commonwealth Retirees Association and lawmakers on the Social Security issue.

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Judge nixes plea accord for 2 in 'ice' case; 1 suspect faints

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A female defendant in an "ice" trafficking case fainted in court yesterday afternoon shortly after Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho rejected a proposed plea agreement that she and a co-defendant entered with the government.

Lu Wei, a Chinese national, was brought by medics to the Commonwealth Health Center. Camacho proceeded with the hearing.

Wei and a male co-defendant, Yong Jie Chen, appeared before Camacho for a change of plea hearing.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Wei and Chen each with trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance for two incidents in January 2012.

Both agreed to plead guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance as part of a plea deal.

The agreement recommends a one-year prison sentence with credit for time served and a fine of $1,000 in exchange for Wei's cooperation with her co-defendant's case.

For Chen, the plea agreement recommends a five-year prison term, all suspended except for 15 months, five years probation, and a $1,000 fine.

Wei appeared at the hearing with her counsel, assistant public defender Douglas Hartig. Chen came with court-appointed counsel, Robert T. Torres. Assistant attorney general Darren Robinson represented the government.

When Camacho announced his decision to reject the plea agreement for both defendants, Wei leaned back in her chair and started shaking and breathing heavily.

Camacho immediately told courtroom clerk Roxanne M. Weaver to call 911. After a few minutes, medics arrived in the courtroom. Court marshals and Department of Corrections officers helped the medics put Wei on a stretcher.

Camacho immediately called the court back to order and set the case for jury trial on June 18, 2012.

In rejecting the plea agreement, Camacho said the government suggests, among other things, that this is an appropriate disposition of the case because the defendants will be deported after serving their sentences.

Camacho disagreed. In his view, deportation carries little deterrent value to either the defendants or to others in the community.

"Moreover, because country conditions vary, deportation may carry more or less retributive value in each case—thus the court is reluctant to value deportation as a replacement for an appropriate jail sentence or fine," Camacho said.

He said he considered the arguments of counsels, including the fact that defendants have no criminal record and the charge is based on possession of $200 worth of "ice"—a relatively small amount.

On the other hand, because the jail sentence imposed under the plea agreement would be one year for Wei and one year and three months for Chen and the Legislature contemplates much harsher penalties for this type of crime, Camacho said he questions the deterrent and retributive value of deportation.

"The court is not confident that this disposition serves the ends of justice," he said.

CUC: Beneficiaries of free water delivery service may be disconnected customers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is concerned about the free water delivery service being provided by the Saipan Mayor's Office, saying its beneficiaries might be the utility agency's customers who have been disconnected for not paying their bills.

Paul Raczkowski, CUC Water/Wastewater operations manager, recently met with Mayor Donald G. Flores and special adviser Henry Hofschneider at the Mayor's Office in Ladera Center to discuss the matter.

"We have to do something about these water deliveries," Raczkowski told Flores and Hofschneider at the start of the meeting.

Raczkowski said those who call the Mayor's Office to request for water delivery service might be people whom their agency had to disconnect "for one reason or another."

According to Raczkowski, CUC aims to provide 24-hour water on the islands but that goal cannot be achieved unless the agency is able to plan for the amount of water that the community needs and having people who take water without CUC's knowledge get in the way.

While there are some residents who are really in need of water service due to CUC's inadequacy, Raczkowski noted that there are people who find ways to pay for their other bills such as cable television or phone but refuse to pay water, which "is probably the cheapest" among these bills.

"We need to stop and curtail the water deliveries to people who have been shut off," he emphasized.

Raczkowski also said that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has tasked CUC to account for the water. Although the water delivered by the Mayor's Office is "not a huge amount," he said it is something that they still have to account for.

He warned that paying customers will end up shouldering the cost of the water that goes to those who do not pay for it "and that's not fair to our customers."

Flores pointed out, however, that his office receives legitimate calls from residents who do not have access to CUC's water service. Other times, there are callers who would say that a family member is ill and that lack of water would jeopardize that individual's health.

Flores said that residents in need of water can actually survive during the rainy season since they can get rain water from their own catchments, so it is the dry season that is more challenging.

In several instances, he said, government agencies and public schools have also asked for water delivery service from the Mayor's Office.

Hofschneider said the mayor is mandated to deliver water "but only to indigent families" and added that they are working on drawing up regulations that would clear up this particular issue.

"The problem is that there are always people who take advantage," replied Raczkowski. "That's what we're trying to solve."

Raczkowski suggested that the Mayor's Office pay for the water they get from CUC and deliver to the public, but Flores maintained that their financial situation won't allow them to cough up funding for additional cost.

In the end, both offices agreed to work on the issue by having the Mayor's Office establish a new form for people requesting for their water delivery service. This form incorporates questions asking callers not just for their basic information but also checks if they have a CUC account and if it has been disconnected.

The Mayor's Office will share the forms each month with CUC, which will verify if any of the clients are disconnected customers of the utility agency.

Flores also asked Raczkowski to look into the possibility of setting up a payment scheme for disconnected customers to afford them the opportunity to get hooked to a CUC water source again.

CUC executive director Abe Malae told *Saipan Tribune* that the Mayor's Office has always backed up their agency when there is no water for schools or other members of the community.

"We agreed that customers who were disconnected water service for non-payment should not be delivered water by the water truck until their accounts are settled," Malae said.

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Rip currents main cause of NMI drownings

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Weather Forecast Office Guam warning coordination meteorologist Charles "Chip" Guard and Emergency Management Office's geophysical seismic technician/supervisor John Takai Camacho pose for a photo after Tuesday's start of a two-day National Weather Service Tropical Cyclone, Disaster Preparedness, and Climate Workshop, at LaoLao Bay Golf Resort Saipan's Caladium Banquet Hall.

Rip currents are the major cause of drowning in the CNMI, according to Charles "Chip" Guard, the warning coordination meteorologist for the Weather Forecast Office Guam.

"See, [people] think the biggest risk is the wind. It's not. The ocean is what kills people, not the wind so much," said Guard yesterday.

Guard said if people get caught by a rip current, they should not swim against it but across it, and escape to shore. The tendency, however, Guard said, is that people panic and they try to swim against the current.

"People swim against the current until they get exhausted. They should swim parallel to the coast," he said.

Guard is the lecturer at the Emergency Management Office's two-day Annual National Weather Service Tropical Cyclone, Disaster Preparedness, and Climate Workshop that kicked off Tuesday at LaoLao Bay Golf Resort Saipan's Caladium Banquet Hall.

About 70 people from EMO, other government agencies, and the private sector joined the workshop. EMO initiated the workshop through funding from the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program.

Guard talked about rip currents, tropical cyclone, programs and products, tsunami, tides, typhoons, among other things.

Guard cited the case of a Customs and Border Protection officer who drowned while spear fishing at Obyan Beach on Sunday night.

Guard explained that any time waves come in over the reef, they break over the reef and that water has to drain back into the ocean.

"The more water comes over the reef, the stronger will be the rip currents," he said.

If there is a storm, Guard said, there will be big waves so rip currents will be very strong, carrying water back into the ocean.

"So when people get out there and they get caught by these rip currents, they can get sucked out into the open ocean. If they're not get rescued, they drown," he said.

He said rip currents may also be found inside lagoons, reef channels and river mouths.

To determine signs of a rip current, Guard said that swimmers should look for a line of debris such as coconuts, palms fronds, sea foam or trash.

To avoid drowning, Guard said that people should wear floatation devices. "Or if you have partners, they should know where you are so you can be rescued if something happens," he said.

At the workshop, EMO's geophysical seismic technician/supervisor John Takai Camacho also talked about volcanoes and their threat to the CNMI.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/FHWA-12-RFP-004

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING DESIGN FOR ROUTE 30 SAFETY IMPROVEMENT, Project No. CM-NH-0030 (010)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting sealed proposals for the Preliminary Engineering Design for Route 30 Safety Improvement on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available because its use is prohibited by Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing, and must have a Resident Engineer or Principal-In-Charge for the contract Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Florence C. Sablan, Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

For any contract or subcontract related to engineering or design of a construction project funded in whole or in part with Federal-aid Highway funds, the bid or proposal submitted for the contract, is required to show what the indirect cost (overhead cost not associated with any one particular project defined under 48 CFR §31.203) associated with the project are, to state how the indirect cost figure was reached, and to certify (pursuant to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Order No. 4470.1A that they are allowable costs under 48 CFR §31.2.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **May 10, 2012** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai Saipan. A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on **May 29, 2012**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, Building 1353, Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **June 14, 2012**.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (résumés and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.
Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and staff assigned to the project – 25%
2. Experience and past performance of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
3. Project Approach – 20%
4. Schedule of Completion – 30%

Discussion will be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirement and technical approach and selection made therefore, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals are solicited, however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified firm. Such Fee Proposals may be used in determining a fair and reasonable price.

Sealed proposals must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-12-RFP-004"**. For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **June 20, 2012** to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **June 20, 2012**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 20, 2012** AND must be received no later than **July 3, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

These projects are funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the Department of Transportation (DOT).

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for the project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ VICENTE B. CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/S/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/FHWA-12-RFP-005

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING DESIGN FOR ROUTE 302 IMPROVEMENT, Project No. CM-NH-0302 (001)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting sealed proposals for the Preliminary Engineering Design for Route 302 Safety Improvement on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available because its use is prohibited by Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing, and must have a Resident Engineer or Principal-In-Charge for the contract Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Florence C. Sablan, Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

For any contract or subcontract related to engineering or design of a construction project funded in whole or in part with Federal-aid Highway funds, the bid or proposal submitted for the contract, is required to show what the indirect cost (overhead cost not associated with any one particular project defined under 48 CFR §31.203) associated with the project are, to state how the indirect cost figure was reached, and to certify (pursuant to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Order No. 4470.1A that they are allowable costs under 48 CFR §31.2.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **May 10, 2012** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai Saipan. A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on **May 29, 2012**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, Building 1353, Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **June 14, 2012**.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (résumés and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.
Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and staff assigned to the project – 25%
2. Experience and past performance of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
3. Project Approach – 20%
4. Schedule of Completion – 30%

Discussion will be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirement and technical approach and selection made therefore, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals are solicited, however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified firm. Such Fee Proposals may be used in determining a fair and reasonable price.

Sealed proposals must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-12-RFP-005"**. For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **June 20, 2012** to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **June 20, 2012**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 20, 2012** AND must be received no later than **July 3, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

These projects are funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the Department of Transportation (DOT).

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for the project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ VICENTE B. CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/FHWA-12-RFP-006

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING DESIGN FOR ROUTE 103 IMPROVEMENT, Project No. CM-NH-3103 (001)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting sealed proposals for the Preliminary Engineering Design for Route 103 Safety Improvement on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available because its use is prohibited by Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing, and must have a Resident Engineer or Principal-In-Charge for the contract Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Florence C. Sablan, Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

For any contract or subcontract related to engineering or design of a construction project funded in whole or in part with Federal-aid Highway funds, the bid or proposal submitted for the contract, is required to show what the indirect cost (overhead cost not associated with any one particular project defined under 48 CFR §31.203) associated with the project are, to state how the indirect cost figure was reached, and to certify (pursuant to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Order No. 4470.1A that they are allowable costs under 48 CFR §31.2.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **May 10, 2012** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai Saipan. A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on **May 29, 2012**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, Building 1353, Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **June 14, 2012**.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (résumés and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.
Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and staff assigned to the project – 25%
2. Experience and past performance of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
3. Project Approach – 20%
4. Schedule of Completion – 30%

Discussion will be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirement and technical approach and selection made therefore, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals are solicited, however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified firm. Such Fee Proposals may be used in determining a fair and reasonable price.

Sealed proposals must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-12-RFP-006"**. For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **June 20, 2012** to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **June 20, 2012**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 20, 2012** AND must be received no later than **July 3, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.
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/S/ VICENTE B. CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Filipino man missing since May 10

On Thursday, May 10, 2012, at about 3:45pm, a missing persons complaint was filed at the Department of Public Safety's Front Desk in Susupe.

The missing person, Amado Guinlao, Filipino male, age 55, is described as about 5'4" tall, with black short hair and brown eyes. Amado is employed as a gardener at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

Guinlao was last seen by friends and co-workers on Saturday, May 5, 2012, riding his bike away from the Fiesta Resort staff housing in Garapan.

At this point and time there is no evidence of foul play and the police are treating this as a missing persons incident.

Anyone with any information can call 911. Should you wish to remain anonymous contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 or use its website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. ***(PR)***

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Burglary and theft in Garapan

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident that occurred at a residence in Garapan behind Mascot Auto Parts, Garapan.

On Saturday, May 19, 2012, at about 6:30am, the victim, a Japanese female, age 35, awoke in her residence to discover her purse missing. She checked her house and realized her bag was stolen sometime overnight while she and her family were sleeping. The suspect(s) broke into her house and stole her bag. The point of entry was through a back door with an iron gate chained and secured with a padlock that was broken by the intruder(s).

The items stolen include an orange Coleman bag, five passports (two Japanese, two U.S. and one Bangladeshi passports), one orange Canon digital camera, one i-Connect cell phone, credit cards and a black/gray wallet containing $500 cash.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000.00 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

WIA Rota trainees transition to full-time jobs

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

From left, CUC power plant manager David S. Atalig welcomes the agency's newest trades assistants: Jesse Max S. Rosario, Jaime A. Santos, Jason Diaz, Kurt John O. Maratita, Antonio M. Reyes Jr., and Joey M. Taimanao. Another successful WIA trainee, Glenn C. Manglona, not shown, also completed the program.

Under the CNMI Workforce Investment Agency's subsidized employment and training services, individual commitment and dedication for success has come into fruition for eight WIA Rota participants.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s working partnership with WIA in building the workforce capacity needs of the CNMI within the utilities sector opened permanent positions for the eight trainees after completion of their WIA subsidized employment and training period.

WIA extends its appreciation to CUC for its continuous partnership and proudly congratulates its trainees, now employees of CUC Rota, for their dedication and commitment in securing a career that brings a better life for themselves and their families. ***(Office of the Governor)***

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Tonica A. Atalig also recently completed her WIA subsidized employment and training program and has joined CUC Rota as its newest cashier.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Scheduled power interruption this Saturday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a power outage this Saturday, May 26, 2012, from 5:30am to 8:30am. Affected areas include Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis to Marpi (Far East Broadcasting Station, Palms Resort, Marianas Resort, Marianas Country Club, and Radar)

The purpose of the interruption is to de-energize the primary lines so the CUC line crew may work safely as they replace two rotten primary power poles in the San Roque area across the Palms Resort.

Because of the scale of the work that will be performed, travelers are asked to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. ***(CUC)***

Tinian sets Memorial Day rites

Tinian will be holding a Memorial Day ceremony to honor the country's fallen heroes on Monday, May 28. The ceremony will begin at 11am at the Japanese Command Post Parade Deck at the North Field. The public is invited. Static display and fun activities will be provided. Vendors and local arts will be available on that day. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of 2002 reunion dinner

Attention all MHS Class of 2002: Our Reunion Dinner Banquet will be held on Saturday, June 23, 2012. An early admission fee of $20 per person will be due before June 15, 2012. Payments received at the door on the day of the event will be $26 per person. RSVP is required. For more information contact Beau Tomokane at 483-0805. ***(PR)***

Jury selection cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors on panel "YS" that the jury selection for May 29 at 8:30am in Superior Court courtroom 202A is cancelled until further notice. For more information contact Roxanne M. Weaver at the Superior Court at 236-9700 extension 773. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 24, 2000

Chamber asks govt to lower incineration fee

Is the incineration fee being charged by the Commonwealth Ports Authority to the visiting U.S. Navy ships too high? Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Lynn A. Knight raised this issue in a letter to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio as she expressed concern on the effect of high incineration fee imposed on visiting military ships, an issue brought up by U.S. Navy vessels in written evaluations. This year alone, the U.S. Navy ships paid more than $57,000 to dispose of their garbage. Compared to Guam, the cost of disposal of regulated waste there is approximately $0.75 per pound inclusive of costs for a 6 cu. ft. regulated dumpster and collection services. CNMI requires all foreign vessels to incinerate their trash.

PCB cleanup pleases Teno

While expressing satisfaction over efforts by federal and local authorities to address the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination in Tanapag, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday vowed to continue helping village residents seek relief for the environmental and health impact of the problem. He said he is "happy" following a report that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will finally clean up the area of the highly-toxic chemicals after more than 12 years of inaction by the federal government. A report that villagers are getting themselves examined by doctors in a clinic set up by the Department of Public Health with the assistance of the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry is also a welcome news for the CNMI, according to the governor.

May 24, 2001

New Eurotex owners need $1M to operate

The Saipan Garment Manufacturers' Association said new owners of bankrupt garment firm Eurotex would have to invest at least $1 million to resurrect its operations. SGMA Executive Director Richard A. Pierce said a substantial amount of money would be needed to upgrade Eurotex's old and decrepit facilities to enable it to pass local and federal health and safety laws and requirements. "Our opinion is that it would require nearly another $1 million to qualify for occupancy at its work stations and dormitories," he said.

House allows CRM to hire nonresident professionals

The House of Representatives yesterday allowed the Coastal Resources Management to hire qualified nonresident professionals like engineers to fill sensitive positions in the agency. House Bill 12-343 is now headed to the Senate for review and deliberation. House Committee on Judicial and Government Operations recommended passage of the proposed measure which allows nonresident workers with professional degree to work for CRM.

May 24, 2002

$50K more proposed for NMI athletes

Saipan lawmakers came through with their promised $50,000 in additional funding for the Commonwealth's athletes who will participate in the upcoming Micronesian Games. This developed after the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed on Monday's session a local bill that would allocate $350,000 for several projects and programs on Saipan, among them the added funding for the athletes. House Local Bill 13-20, which proposes to source the money for these projects from fees collected under Saipan Local Law 11-2, now goes to the desk of Gov. Juan N. Babauta for passage. Prior to this, Babauta also signed into law a separate local bill that also sets aside $50,000 for the use of the CNMI's athletes in the Micronesian Games in July. If Babauta signs HLB 13-20 into law, these will give the CNMI's athletes a total of $100,000.

CPA: Travel restrictions may create problem

Federal-related activities and projects might suffer in the long run if local government agencies will be required to seek the approval of the Office of the Governor before proceeding with scheduled trips abroad. The Commonwealth Ports Authority pointed out that requiring agencies to secure a travel approval before taking off-island business trips may be detrimental not only to the CPA but to other agencies as well. Reacting to Senate Bill 13-42, which seeks to amend and repeal certain sections of the CNMI Code relative to the term and composition of boards and commission, the CPA stressed that a problem may arise if an important travel for a federal project is denied by the Office of the Governor.

USCIS launches online immigration system, USCIS ELIS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services launched yesterday the first phase of its electronic immigration benefits system, known as USCIS ELIS. The system has been created to modernize the process for filing and adjudicating immigration benefits.

"Today marks a significant milestone in our agency's history," said USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas. "We have launched the foundation for the web-based future of our agency and our immigration benefits system. USCIS ELIS will transform how we interact with our customers and how we manage the 6-7 million applications we receive each year."

This initial launch brings the agency closer to realizing the future of immigration services. Beginning today, individuals can establish a USCIS ELIS account and apply online to extend or change their nonimmigrant status for certain visa types. Eligible individuals include foreign citizens who travel to the United States temporarily to study, conduct business, receive medical treatment, or visit on vacation. USCIS ELIS will also enable USCIS officers to review and adjudicate online filings from multiple agency locations across the country.

» Agency begins transition from paper-based to online environment

Historically, USCIS customers have had to apply for most benefits by mail and USCIS employees then review paper files and ship documents between offices to complete their adjudication. Today's launch signifies an important step forward and is the first of several releases. Future releases will add form types and functions to the system, gradually expanding to cover filing and adjudication for all USCIS immigration benefits.

This important transition for America's immigration benefits system will take time and continued dedication to fully implement. Following this first release, USCIS anticipates making adjustments and improvements in response to user feedback. This process will enable USCIS to continually enhance the user experience for both customers and USCIS employees. It will also allow the agency to smooth the transition to electronic filing over time, mindful of those individuals without computer access and the agency's commitment to serve our diverse customer base.

Benefits of using USCIS ELIS include filing applications and paying fees online, shorter processing times, and the ability to update user profiles, receive notices, and respond to requests electronically. The system also includes tools to combat fraud and identify national security concerns.

Mayorkas attributed yesterday's successful launch to the steadfast dedication of the USCIS workforce. "USCIS employees believe in the transformation of our agency from a paper-based to an online environment. It is through their vision, unwavering commitment, and hard work that we have reached this important milestone," Mayorkas said.

Visit www.uscis.gov/uscis-elis to take a tour of the new system, learn about eligibility and the benefits of using USCIS ELIS, and find frequently asked questions.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, visit www.uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis) and the USCIS blog *The Beacon*. ***(USCIS)***

Volunteers clean up Oleai Sports Complex

More than 10 volunteers rolled up their sleeves on Saturday, May 19, and cleaned up the baseball field side of the Oleai Sports Complex parking lot. The cleanup was organized by the Taga Badminton Club.

A total of 30 full trash bags of litter, fallen branches, debris, and leaves that had fallen on the area over the past several years were collected by the volunteers. Team members were able to bush cut the grounds, sidewalks, and parking lot islands surrounding the area.

Club president Christy Villaflor said, "It was not that easy to work under the sun for three straight hours bush cutting and cleaning, but we're all very happy to have cleaned this neglected section of the park. We plan to continue our efforts and do this again very soon."

Panapa Peteru, project leader, also remarked, "I'd like to thank all our volunteers and those that helped here today. We live in a small community and many of our athletic facilities are shared by different sports so I'm glad that we were able to do something which will benefit us all."

Northern Marianas Badminton Association secretary general Merlie Tolentino said, "The association is very pleased with the work Taga Badminton Club has done. We are encouraging other clubs to volunteer and give back to our community."

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation provided supplies, bush cutters, and disposal of the litter and debris in an effort to promote volunteerism projects to the organizations, which its sponsors and supports. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Taga Badminton Club and other volunteers roll up their sleeves on Saturday, May 19, and cleaned up the baseball field side of the Oleai Sports Complex parking lot. The group was joined by Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, fourth from left, who helped out by doing bush cutting work.

Charfauros to get honorary Master of Micronesian Traditional Knowledge

MANGILAO, Guam—During the University of Guam spring 2012 commencement ceremonies, Jesus "Chamorro" Charfauros will receive an honorary Master of Micronesian Traditional Knowledge in honor of his lifetime of work promoting the Chamorro language and culture. This is only the second time the university has conferred this award.

Dr. Michael Clement, UOG Professor of History whose dissertation focused on Chamorro music said, "In the mid-1960s, when Chamorro parents and teachers were encouraging their children to speak English and put little emphasis on Chamorro, Jesus Charfauros wrote the song *Munga Yo' Mafino Englesi*. The song warned that if Chamorros did not take pride in their language, values, and traditions, the cultural cohesion that had been the strength of the Chamorro people for generations would be lost. This song launched the Chamorro cultural renaissance."

Charfauros has contributed over 50 years of his life promoting the Chamorro culture through music and hosting cultural, informative programs in the Chamorro language. Known as "Jesus Chamorro," Charfauros has written many songs that has presented the Chamorro language as central to cultural identity and has established Chamorro language music as a format for social activism centered on perpetuating the language and the *kustumbren* Chamorro traditions. Through his artistic contributions, he has captured the traditional and cultural expressions and spirit of the Chamorro people.

"Jesus Charfauros has been the greatest single contributor to the strength and vitality of the Chamorro language revival for over five decades," said University of Guam president Robert A. Underwood. "His depth of knowledge and creative use of the Chamorro language has inspired dozens of Chamorro singers and artists. He richly deserves this recognition."

The University conferred the first Master of Micronesian Traditional Knowledge to master navigator Manny Ikea Sikau during the 2010 spring commencement ceremonies. The award is limited to a maximum of one per academic year.

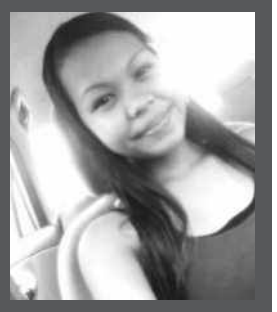
The spring 2012 commencement ceremonies will be held at 2pm in the UOG Field House. ***(UOG)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to our princess, Aldene Jayh Hockett Alvarez aka Lala! May all your dreams come true! We love you always and forever. From your Hockett and Alvarez *familia*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEWLY CONFIRMED



Congratulation Richelle Janelle Cabrera Borja on your confirmation! May the Holy Spirit light your way with blessings and happiness. Greetings coming out from Nina Martha, Mom, Erica and family, Jenny and Jake, Shawn and family, RJ and Dee, and the entire Cabrera families and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulation to RJ Borja on your confirmation! May God bless you and may you be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Greetings come out from Dee Dee, Nino Stevie, Mom, Erica, JR II, (JR III), Jenny, Jake, Shawn, Joyce, (Samirah), Richelle, Rem, and the entire Cabrera families and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In the United States District Court For the Northern Mariana Islands Bankruptcy Division

In re Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund

Bankr. Case No. 12-00003

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Motion to Dismiss filed by the CNMI Government in the above-entitled matter is set for hearing before Hon. Robert J. Faris on **June 1, 2012** at **9:30 a.m.** in the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, 2nd Floor, Horiguchi Building, Garapan, Saipan.

Dated: May 16, 2012

By: Office of the Attorney General

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF KAREN MAE B. ANADE an incapacitated minor child and proposed ward. **BENJAMIN B. ANADE.** *Petitioner.*	FCD GU Civil Action No. 12-0134 **ORDER GRANTING PETITIONER'S EMERGENCY MOTION FOR HEARING ON SHORTENED NOTICE AND TIME**

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, Petitioner's Emergency Motion for Hearing on Shortened Notice and Time his Petition for Appointment of Guardian of the Person Ad Litem and Estate of Incapacitated Minor Child is hereby **GRANTED**. Petitioner's Petition for Appointment of Guardian shall be heard on May 24, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

SO ORDERED this 10th day of May, 2012.

/s/ HON. PERRY B. INOS
Associate Judge

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MIAO WANG LARIMER Petitioner, **vs.** **KELLY S. LARIMER** Respondent	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0205 **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 1192 P.O. Box 10003 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 30th day of April, 2012

/s/ Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, INC., Plaintiff, **vs.** **JOSEPH M. MANGLONA and BLANCA P. MANGLONA** Defendants.	**Civil Action No. 99-0691** **NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to an Order issued by this Court on January 23, 2012, in which the undersigned was Ordered to levy, execute and sell, in accordance with law, a parcel of real property, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, Defendants' interest in and to the following real property situated in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as described below.

Lot No. 008 T 25, containing an area of 900 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on drawing/cadastral plat no. 008 T 01, dated January 07, 1988 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale: The sale, open to the general public (including the Defendants), will be held on **Friday, May 25, 2012, at 11:00 a.m.,** at the Tinian Superior Court entrance, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 3rd day of May, 2012.

/s/ S. Joshua Berger, Auctioneer
Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger
Tel. No.: (670)235-8060
e-mail : joshuaberger711@hotmail.com

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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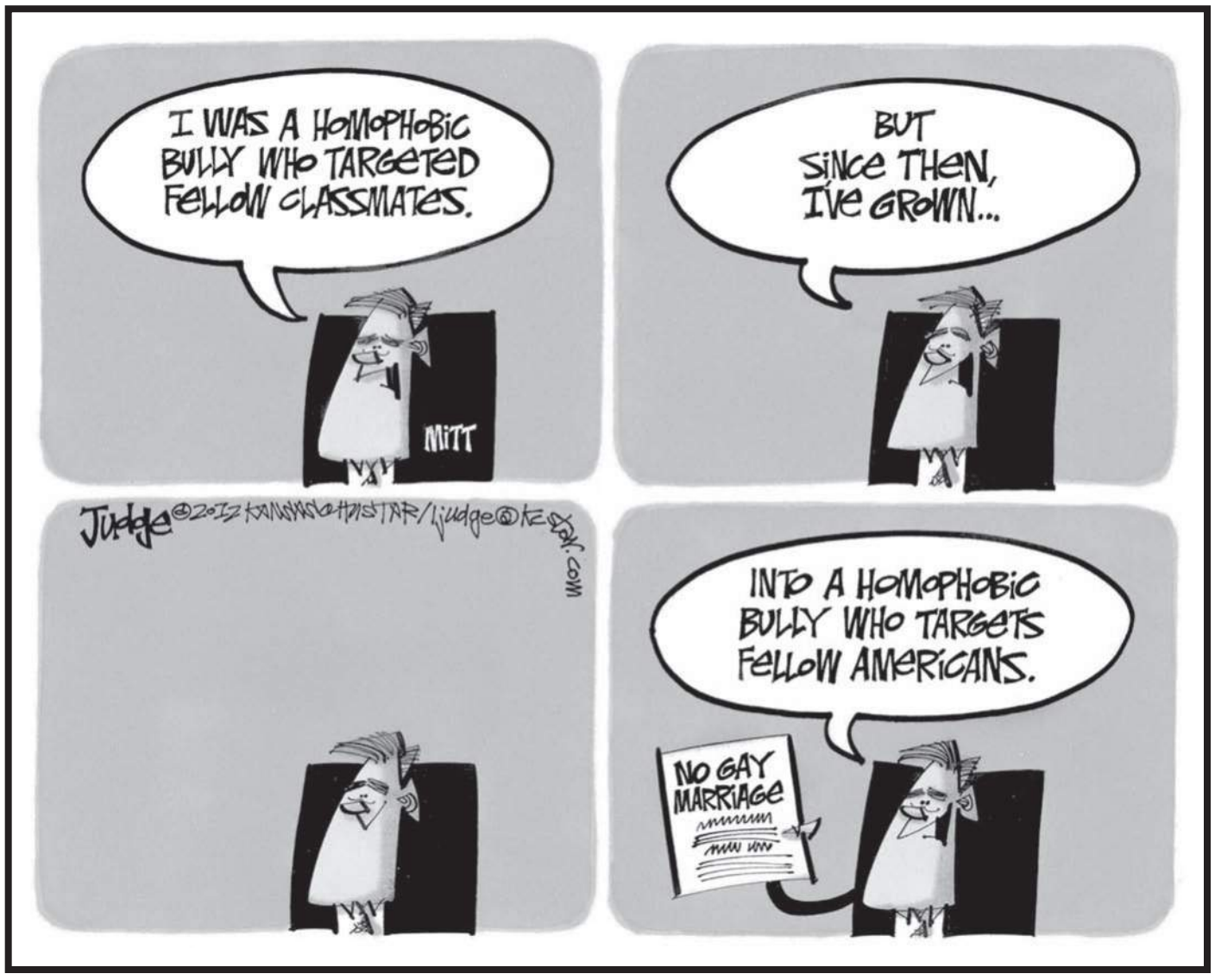

I WAS A HOMOPHOBIC BULLY WHO TARGETED FELLOW CLASSMATES.
MITT
BUT SINCE THEN, I'VE GROWN...
Judge ©2012 KANSAS CITY STAR/judge@kcstar.com
INTO A HOMOPHOBIC BULLY WHO TARGETS FELLOW AMERICANS.
NO GAY MARRIAGE

By KEVIN FERRIS
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Kevin Ferris is assistant editor of the Editorial Page of the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to him at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at kf@phillynews.com.*

Presidents' pasts catch up with them

By KEVIN FERRIS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

See if you can distinguish the real news story from the overwritten fake ones.

Philadelphia Public Ledger, April 1, 1789: The man who led U.S. forces through the nation's longest war, and who this month will become its first chief executive thanks to a lack of opposition and a unanimous vote in the Electoral College, has a dark side when it comes to environmental issues.

The Ledger has learned, through sources both on and off the record, that what was once thought of strictly as a legend seems to be true. A young George Washington did indeed, with malice aforethought, chop down a cherry tree—as he admitted to his father, according to contemporary accounts.

The young axman, of course, deserves credit for owning up to this fit of temper, as even his political critics will freely admit. It is the act itself, however, that raises serious questions about his ability to act as a responsible steward over the young nation's natural resources.

"He was like a tiny man possessed, wooden teeth set, his powdered wig askew," said a former neighbor and boyhood chum who declined to talk on the record about one of the wealthiest men in the Commonwealth of Virginia, who will soon be the nation's most powerful citizen. "It was a hack job. It was vicious."

Another bystander, on whose foot the tree would land, is still haunted by the environmental degradation he witnessed that day.

"It happened very quickly, and to this day it troubles me," said Josiah Randolph, who, too stunned to move out of the way of the falling tree, continues to walk with a limp.

Supporters of the president-elect dismiss the 50-year-old incident, and the chorus of criticism within the nascent environmental movement. They point to years of sound management of his estate, Mount Vernon, his raising of hemp, some say for medicinal purposes, as evidence that Washington has evolved ...

Boston Herald, March 1, 1829: Does President-elect Andrew Jackson have an anger-management problem?

It is a question that the nation must ask itself as it prepares to say farewell to its chief executive, Massachusetts' favorite son John Quincy Adams, statesman, diplomat extraordinaire, and cerebral Harvard graduate, and turns power over to frontiersman, warrior and duelist Jackson, whose greatest claim to fame, the infamous Battle of New Orleans, happened after a peace treaty had been signed with Great Britain, ending the War of 1812 that Jackson insisted on still fighting.

That chapter in the Tennessean's life is already well-known, and history and the almighty will be his final judges in the matter. What is less studied are the roots of Jackson's rage, the seeds of anger that were planted in youth and continue to regularly blossom in fits of outrage.

A retired British military official, now in hiding because of fear of retaliation from the soon-to-be president, remembers encountering a teenage Andrew Jackson in the spring of 1781, the

See PRESIDENTS on Next Page

On immigration hope

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

We will not be too dismissive of Sid Kani's veiled assault on Rabby Syed's actuations (flawed and lying is the charge plus the almost libelous aside that Rabby lives off his movement moneys for plane tickets) to the ST *Letters to the Editor* (May 22) with a side Doromal kick and assume that Sid sees something Rabby doesn't. Kani's main subject is the status of CNMI contract workers organized as the United Workers Movement and how they are being made to hope for something they could not possibly achieve.

Wendy and Rabby are grown up folks who need not respond in kind to Sid's diatribe. We will, however, grant Kani's perspective, albeit receiving it more as one taken from a looking thought a peephole, rather than from a normal regular lens.

The historical perspective on the immigration laws of the United States is, at best, checkered. After the 13 colonies told King George to stuff his "taxation without representation," the Atlantic seaboard practiced an open-door policy for anyone who booked the transatlantic passage, even allowing West Africans to be brought in, though chained as commodity to be traded as slave labor in the plantations. Meanwhile, the new immigrants decided to redefine their native hosts' welcome by turning the tables around, treating the residents as the aliens rather than the indigenes.

When eastern European Jews and Mediterranean Europe, along with the poor, famished and Roman Catholic Irish, started showing up, the issue of controlling immigration came to the fore. Meanwhile, Pacific coast labor depended on guys being shanghaied but barring their female counterpart from migrating, culminating in the odious Seclusion Act of 1882 targeting Chinese from further legal entry into the sovereign domain.

As late as World War II, the country incarcerated the Japanese but kept the Germans relatively unhampered. Earl Warren help pen the laws versus the Japanese; on the other side of remorse, he would make the Warren court receptive to the Civil Rights Act.

It took another century from 1776 for the West African folks enslaved in the farms to bring out of the confines of their patronized we-shall-overcome groups their human and civil rights, already enshrined but ignored in the nation's Declaration of Independence and Constitution. This increased the underground rail traffic of West African descendants from South to North. It will take another century before the legal structures provide juridical redress on those rights.

We will not belabor the fact that U.S. citizenship to the CNMI is rooted on the need of the islands' military strategic location. Immigration laws in the United States were not meant to define the character of the country's population as to exclude certain races.

Meanwhile, with the rapid globalization of the economy, the exodus of investments into cheap labor locations, or where it is cheaper to bring in the migrant workers to do menial labor in the industrialized countries, immigration takes in a different coloration. Contract labor is an entry category with the unspoken assumption that those peons of labor will only enjoy wage-earning rights, but are not be treated their full humanity!

America's aerospace enterprises brought us the unifying and liberating image of the earthrise, the new mythological symbol that announced the coming of a new era. Many might have seen this coming, and JFK certainly made it his mandate to enable the United States to be at the cutting edge of the exploration of outer space, but it was the picture of the "blue planet" from the Apollo efforts, fragile and singular without traces of the imaginary political boundaries we drew on its geography that capture the imagination of some of us.

If we live in a new global village, what does immigration across imaginary borders (separation of the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia was occasioned by the conflict between Spain, the Brits and the Dutch) mean? It is a live issue not just in the United States but every locality across the world.

I have been a U.S. citizen longer than the majority of those in the CNMI but I had been told more often than I care to remember to return to the country where I came from. In fact, the sole advice given to me prior to traveling to Saipan was not to wear any attire indicating native Philippine dress!

At a time when the processes of supporting life (economic), organizing decision-making structures (political), and appropriating the enabling symbols that affirms our common humanity (culture), have become a universal process rather than just the parochial task of some countries, then immigration is indeed more than just a legal conundrum. I thank the Chinese opportunists who tried to sneak into Guam so the law can be made clear that going there from Saipan does not traverse international waters! We need more efforts to keep clarifying sacred laws!

I do not know Sid Kani but I have had many occasions to sweat out a stride with Rabby Syed, and if hope is what is being received

See IMMIGRATION on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Bin Laden realized the truth: Terrorism doesn't work

By MAX ABRAHMS
The Baltimore Sun

Max Abrahms is a postdoctoral fellow in political science at the Johns Hopkins University and author of The Political Effectiveness of Terrorism Revisited. *Readers may send him email at maxabrahms@hotmail.com. He wrote this for the* Baltimore Sun.

Five weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks, Osama bin Laden publicly commanded his foot-soldiers to ramp up the violence against American civilians. But five weeks before his death, he privately instructed his lieutenants to refrain from killing any civilians. Did the world's most notorious terrorist have a moral awakening and grow soft? Hardly. His unheralded tactical shift was purely strategic.

This month, the Combating Terrorism Center at the West Point Military Academy released 17 declassified documents that were seized from bin Laden's Abbottabad, Pakistan, compound in the targeted killing last year. These documents, coupled with his post-Sept. 11 admissions to the media, portray a leader painfully aware that terrorism was proving counterproductive.

In fact, the Sept. 11 attacks exacerbated each of bin Laden's grievances against the West. Instead of safeguarding the Ummah from Western encroachment, the raid provoked a global "war on terrorism" that killed countless Muslims internationally. It mobilized Washington to invade and occupy Iraq, increasing U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf by a factor of 15. It unseated the Taliban, the strictest exemplar of Islamist governance in the world. It sapped U.S. support for Palestinian statehood. And it strengthened Western relations with unpopular, American-allied Muslim rulers in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere. Meanwhile, nonviolent protest movements have scored tangible victories across the Middle East from Egypt to Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. Even from his Abbottabad compound, bin Laden could hardly maintain the pretext that al-Qaida terrorism pays.

Bin Laden accomplished little, but he died a wiser man. The evolution in his strategic thinking mirrors recent empirical discoveries in the social sciences. In 2006, I published *Why Terrorism Does Not Work*, the first study to examine a large number of terrorist groups in terms of their political effectiveness. Contrary to the fabled image of terrorist "masterminds," they seldom if ever attain their strategic demands. My newer statistical research confirms—even after factoring out the relative strength of governments and perpetrators, and the oft-extreme nature of their demands—that across target countries, terrorism lowers the odds of government concessions.

Complementary results are found in public opinion data. In the face of terrorism, electorates are manifestly not cowed into appeasement and do not support more dovish politicians. Quite the contrary. Claude Berrebi and Esteban F. Klor have demonstrated that Israeli voters have historically shifted to right-bloc candidates such as Ariel Sharon and Benjamin Netanyahu. Christophe Chowanietz likewise determined that within France, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States, the electorates have moved to the political right in direct proportion to the lethality of terrorist attacks, thereby empowering the hawks. The mere release of an al-Qaida videotape the weekend before the 2004 election boosted George W. Bush's national lead by 2 percentage points over Sen. John Kerry, his comparatively dovish opponent. This is precisely why Democratic presidential candidates always fear an "October surprise."

States also suffer at the bargaining table when they prey on civilians. In a 1996 study, Robert Pape analyzed strategic bombing campaigns worldwide from the First World War to the 1990 Persian Gulf War, and found that governments reach an inferior bargain when their campaigns target the population. Similarly, military historian Caleb Carr has charted the success of empires and great powers based on their brutality toward civilians, concluding that "The nation or faction that resorts to warfare against civilians most quickly, most often, and most viciously is the nation or faction most likely to see its interests frustrated and, in many cases, its existence terminated." More recently, Kathryn Cochran and Alexander Downes investigated the effectiveness of civilian victimization campaigns on interstate war outcomes from 1816 to 2007. They found that while indiscriminate bombings, sieges and missile strikes may stamp out countless civilians, such assaults on the populace have not yielded superior political settlements.

In sum, a spate of emerging empirical research indicates that bin Laden belatedly got something right: Killing civilians was at best an unproductive instrument for achieving his strategic demands.

His inchoate appreciation for nonviolence accords with another major empirical finding in the social sciences. In a new book, *The Better Angels of Our Nature*, Steven Pinker shows that international actors are laying down their arms. In fact, we are currently experiencing the most peaceful period in human history, notwithstanding sensationalist media stories to the contrary. This trend holds true across indicators of international violence ranging from homicide rates to genocide, infanticide, rape, slavery, torture, war, wife-beating—even animal cruelty. In a related work, *Winning the War on War*, Joshua Goldstein details the global decline in armed conflict that began after the Second World War and accelerated after the Cold War. Fewer wars are starting, more are ending, and those that remain are smaller, more localized and less deadly relative to the world population.

Earlier this month, I attended the annual conference of the International Studies Association, and the scholarly consensus was that the reduction of international violence cannot be dismissed as an artifact of measurement problems with the data. Little consensus exists, however, on the underlying reasons why. In all likelihood, there are multiple causal mechanisms behind our newfound gains in physical security, ranging from globalization to nuclear deterrence to the worldwide expansion of democracy and international institutions.

But strategic calculations are central. Recall, bin Laden began to vacillate over terrorism only when he began to doubt its value. Violence in all its manifestations will continue to decline whenever other practitioners reach the same conclusion—hopefully sooner.

R.I.P., Encyclopaedia Britannica

By PETER GARRISON
LOS ANGELES TIMES

These days, the sound of the digital scythe being whetted makes me cast more lingering looks at the paper and cardboard relics on my bookshelves. At none more, since the announcement in March of their imminent extinction, than the familiar brown and gold, oddly titled volumes of my 1958 Encyclopaedia Britannica: HYDROZ to JEREM, MARYB to MUSHE, SARS to SORC.

During my teenage years, when my thirst and respect for knowledge were at an unsustainable peak, I resolved to read the Britannica from one end to the other. Or if not read, at least page through; even a young person much deluded about his own capacities cannot have imagined that he would absorb every single word about Bezique, Litomerice or even Trappists. But my goal was to have at least glanced into every department of human knowledge, like the tourist who passes by, and can therefore truly say that he has seen, every single painting in the Louvre.

The project was doomed from the start. Not only did topics linked by nothing more than the random accident of an initial letter fail to reliably arouse my interest; I also could not resist being led away from the alphabetical order of things by any briefly seductive scent. That was always a problem with any consultation of the Britannica; you would open it to look up one thing and be waylaid by something else, until you forgot what you wanted to find in the first place.

But the encyclopedia was always there, and as the erudite relatives who first taught me that knowledge was a pleasure in itself died one by one (and in whose final shudders I would see vanish, in an instant, vast internal encyclopedias), it remained steadfast, unchanging, dateless and true. Whatever I needed to know I could find there, expounded in that oddly toneless prose in which the slightest whiff of opinion or irony struck like a cold draft from some rudely opened door.

We all had them, my striving generation; the noble tomes were reliably to be found in the cargo of college-bound freights. Collisions were inevitable; young couples setting up housekeeping together would confront the awkward problem of what to do with their twin hereditary Britannicas.

These days I consult Wikipedia—disreputable among scholars, I know—far more often. It's quicker and, when that matters, more up to date. I know how much skepticism to bring to it, and I even edit entries myself from time to time. The old serendipities of encyclopedia consultation are largely—though, thanks to hypertext links, not entirely—missing from Wikipedia, but something else is missing too. What to call it? Maybe just Mass.

Granted, the size of the Britannica—my 1958 edition takes up 4 feet of shelf space and about equals my high school self in weight—was a great detriment to portability. But its sheer bulk and heft seemed to imply, metaphorically, that Truth—massive, permanent, immutable, as I thought at the time—dwelt therein. The Britannica stood apart, remote and lofty, sacred and untouchable. Its impersonal prose seemed to underscore its authority, as if all those articles had been written by something other than mere humans. The thought that I myself might emend a single word of it never entered my mind: It was not just a practical impossibility, but a moral one.

Authorities have not always been our best friends, and perhaps Wikipedia's postmodern assumption that Truth is not what one gray eminence thinks, but rather what we can all agree upon, will put future knowledge-seekers into a healthier relationship with their sources. But I still glance with nostalgia at those now seldom-visited books, and I feel a little pang of loss for the permanent and reliable world they stood for.

Peter Garrison is a writer in Los Angeles. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

PRESIDENTS

From Page 10

height of the rebellion, in the then-colony of South Carolina.

Granted, tensions were high. British troops were, in fact, pillaging the countryside, taking some colonists prisoner, killing others. But, supporters say, one must keep in mind that they were representing the nation's lawful ruler.

Jackson and his brother had been taken into custody. One British officer, trying to look his best under difficult circumstances, ordered the 14-year-old to polish his boots.

Showing the defiance that more and more Americans are becoming familiar with, Jackson refused, reportedly saying, "Sir, I am a prisoner of war, and claim to be treated as such."

The former officer remembers all too well. "He wasn't using his indoor voice," the man recalls. "I thought then, 'There's a wild and crazy man inside of there just waiting to come out.'" ...

The New York Times, Feb. 9, 2008: Nearly three decades ago, Barack Obama stood out on the small campus of Occidental College in Los Angeles for his eloquence, intellect, and activism against apartheid in South Africa. But Mr. Obama, then known as Barry, also joined in the party scene.

Years later in his 1995 memoir, he mentioned smoking "reefer" in "the dorm room of some brother" and talked about "getting high." Before Occidental, he indulged in marijuana, alcohol, and sometimes cocaine as a high school student in Hawaii ...

Mr. Obama ... wrote about his two years at Occidental, a predominantly white liberal arts college, as a gradual but profound awakening from a slumber of indifference that gave rise to his activism there and his fears that drugs could lead him to addiction or apathy, as they had for many other black men. ...

In more than three dozen interviews, friends, classmates, and mentors from his high school and Occidental recalled Mr. Obama as being grounded, motivated and poised, someone who did not appear to be grappling with any drug problems ...

IMMIGRATION

From Page 10

from his indefatigable efforts, then let there be more. To be sure, the legal strictures are not to be ignored nor taken for granted, but immigration is no longer just a political issue. It has become a human rights issue.

Can't buy Syed his walking shoes but on his movemental efforts, I will fling hard and with firm support shoemaker Nike's slogan: Just do it! Come what may, the Force is with you!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

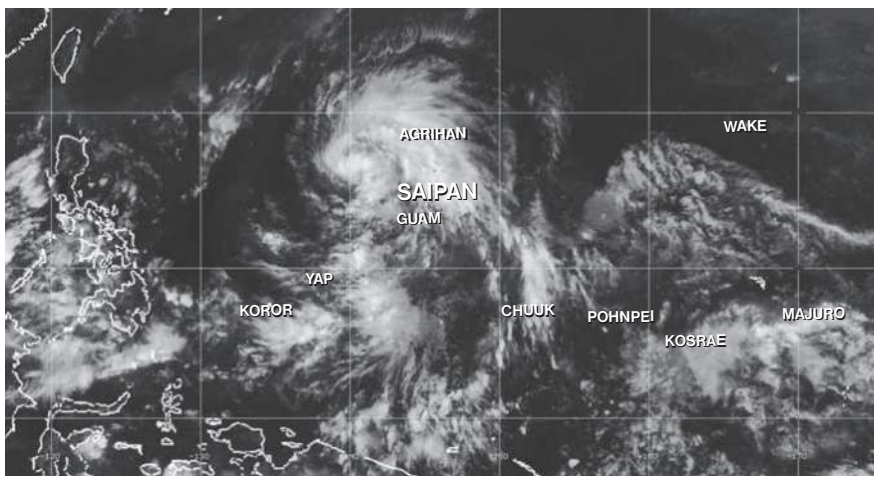
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼54
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼58
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼80
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼73
London	Showers	▲81	▼60
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲76	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼81
Melbourne	Showers	▲62	▼49
Miami	Showers	▲80	▼75
New York	Showers	▲73	▼62
Osaka	Cloudy	▲80	▼62
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼66
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼63
Rome	Thundershowers	▲80	▼61
Salem	Showers	▲59	▼48
San Francisco	Sunny	▲64	▼51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼56
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼63
Washington, DC	Thunderhowers	▲78	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Sanvu (03W) is centered northwest of Guam at 17N141E and is moving toward the northwest at 13 mph with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are in an area near Guam and over the CNMI or between 13N and 20N from 140E to 150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are between 13N and 19N from 137E to 140E. For more information on Tropical Storm Sanvu, see bulletins issued by the JTWC under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Convergent winds south of Tropical Storm Sanvu are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Yap or south of a line from 12N140E to 7N150E. A monsoon trough extends eastward across 7N130E to near Yap at 10N140E then curves northward into Tropical Storm Sanvu. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just south of Koror and Yap are between 4N and 7N from 130E to 140E. A tropical disturbance near Kosrae is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 7N from 159E to 170E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Majuro and the southern RMI between 2N and 8N from 170E to 180. A cold front stretches southwestward from 25N138E to beyond 130E at 21N. A few thunderstorms are near 19N131E while cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 100 miles northwest of the front.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:59 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
9:34 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:58 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:09 AM	9:20 PM
Friday	9:01 AM	10:06 PM
Saturday	9:53 AM	10:49 PM
Sunday	10:45 AM	11:32 PM
Monday	11:37 AM	

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; UA: United; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

PHI Pharmacy touts benefits of Gold's Gym corporate program

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As a long-term pharmaceutical employer on island, PHI Pharmacy has been reaping the benefits of getting its personnel enrolled in the Gold's Gym Saipan's corporate membership program, which promotes wellness in the workplace.

Bruce Cohen, pharmacist and owner of PHI Pharmacy, said the company initially got involved in the program last December and he has worked with Gold's Gym Saipan since then so they can avail of its corporate membership.

"I can see that the employees' morale has picked up, people have actually lost weight and feel better and healthier. Camaraderie has been built up. It's getting to know each other at a different level, not just the work level but on a more personal level. We're getting closer," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Gold's Gym Saipan's Corporate Wellness Programs are designed to keep employees happy and healthy by enabling them to reach their fitness goals, thus increasing the company's success through enhanced employee productivity and performance.

Studies show that high levels of stress, excess body weight, and other multiple risk factors are related to increased healthcare costs and illness-related absenteeism. Corporate wellness programs aid in providing education and motivation to individual health, and benefits include decreased rates of illness or injuries, reduced absenteeism, and improved morale and lower stress levels.

Gold's Gym Saipan offers monthly membership plans based on a one-year contract, which provides benefits such as lower membership rates, access to an array of group exercise classes, and other complimentary perks.

"This is an economical way of increasing the morale of the company. It doesn't cost a lot of money. We see doing this for a long time," said Cohen, adding that PHI Pharmacy pays 50 percent of the corporate membership fees while the employees take on the other half through payroll deduction.

Cohen, who has been a member of Gold's Gym since it opened on island, said that besides having the staff healthier and in better shape, they have also changed their dietary regimen.

"It's a whole lifestyle change when you make that commitment to start exercising and seeing improvement in your body," he said. "The rest of it follows. We're talking about longevity and quality of life and I've seen such change in our people."

CLARISSA V. DAVID
PHI Pharmacy owner and pharmacist Bruce Cohen, left, and staff join Gold's Gym Saipan's Joel Tudela, right, for a group photo last Friday. The long-time pharmaceutical company on island has signed up for the Gold's Gym's corporate membership program and attests to its benefits.

Marivec Callejo, pharmacy specialist for 10 years and a cancer patient, agrees. "Having been enrolled in the Gold's Gym corporate membership program has made me more conscious of what I eat nowadays. I would have more fruits and vegetables but sometimes, I would treat myself in restaurants if I know I've done well with my gym routine."

Save for occasional walks in the park, Callejo confessed that she didn't exercise as much in the past. These days, though, she looks forward to being in the gym with coworkers. Even her husband was inspired to join her in her workout because of the many advantages it provides.

"I've lost two inches in the waistline and [about] 10 pounds in a span of one and a half months," reveals Callejo, chuckling. "I can now wear my old jeans from a decade ago and I think it's awesome, not just physically. At work, I can feel that I am more invigorated throughout the day and my outlook in life is different, more positive.

Hasmin Tana, who has been with PHI Pharmacy for almost three years, attests to the improved relationships among her colleagues. "Previously, we would bond over food because we really love to eat. Today, we would all look forward to going to the gym after work."

Tana revealed that she used to be a member at Gold's Gym but did not sign up after a while because of the fees. "With the corporate membership fees, being a member has become more affordable at this time when everybody feels the impact of the general economic situation on island."

Moreover, Tana said, she has expanded her network of friends to other gym buddies, particularly from her favorite group classes, Zumba and Steps.

"Since I went back to the gym, I've been mindful of becoming healthier but in a way that you also enjoy and have fun," she added.

Gold's Gym Saipan's Joel Tudela said other companies have already signed up for their corporate membership programs. As more businesses enroll, more exciting promotions can be expected from the only gym on Saipan that offers corporate memberships.

"We want to make our group programs more fun for everyone," he said.

PHI's Cohen is urging other employers to sign up their staff with Gold's Gym Saipan for its cost-effective membership plans for the entire company. "The benefits are hard to measure monetarily but it makes the workplace a much happier place to be. I encourage everyone to exercise, be it corporate or not. I think that lifestyle modification and taking responsibility for your own health is the bottom line."

Gold's Gym Saipan is located in Garapan Central Park and is open from Monday to Friday, 5:30am to 9pm; Saturday from 7am to 7pm; and Sunday from 10am to 6pm. For more information, call 233-4000.

CBO warns of US falling off 'fiscal cliff'

WASHINGTON (AP)—A new government study released Tuesday says that allowing Bush-era tax cuts to expire and a scheduled round of automatic spending cuts to take effect would probably throw the economy into a recession.

The Congressional Budget Office report says that the economy would shrink by 1.3 percent in the first half of next year if the government is allowed to fall off this so-called "fiscal cliff" on Jan. 1—and that the higher tax rates and more than $100 billion in automatic cuts to the Pentagon and domestic agencies are kept in place.

There's common agreement that lawmakers will act either late this year or early next year to head off the dramatic shift in the government's financial situation. But if they were left in place, CBO says it would wring hundreds of billions of dollars from the budget deficit that would "represent an additional drag on the weak economic expansion."

CBO projected that the economy would contract by 1.3 percent in the first half of 2013, which would meet the traditional definition of a recession, which is when the economy shrinks for two consecutive quarters.

"Such a contraction in output in the first half of 2013 would probably be judged to be a recession," CBO said.

The economy would rebound at a 2.3 percent growth rate in the second half of the year, however, under CBO projections.

2010 census missed more than 1.5M minorities

WASHINGTON (AP)—The 2010 census missed more than 1.5 million minorities after struggling to count black Americans, Hispanics, renters and young men, but was mostly accurate, the government said Tuesday.

The Census Bureau released an extensive assessment of its high-stakes, once-a-decade headcount of the U.S. population. Based on a sample survey, the government analysis has been a source of political controversy in the past over whether to "statistically adjust" census results to correct for undercounts, which usually involve minorities who tend to vote Democratic.

The findings show the 2010 census over-counted the total U.S. population by 36,000 people, or 0.01 percent, due mostly to duplicate counts of affluent whites owning multiple homes. That is an improvement from a census over-count of 0.5 percent in 2000.

However, the census missed about 2.1 percent of black Americans and 1.5 percent of Hispanics, together accounting for some 1.5 million people. The percentages are statistically comparable to 2000, despite an aggressive advertising and minority outreach effort in 2010 that pushed total census costs to an unprecedented $15 billion.

Also undercounted were about 5 percent of American Indians living on reservations and nearly 2 percent of minorities who marked themselves as "some other race."

Google completes Motorola deal, heralding new era

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google has completed its $12.5 billion purchase of device maker Motorola Mobility in a deal that poses new challenges for the Internet's most powerful company as it tries to shape the future of mobile computing.

The deal closed Tuesday, nine months after Google Inc. made a surprise announcement that it wanted to expand into the hardware business with the most expensive and riskiest acquisition in its 14-year history. The purchase pushes Google deeper into the cellphone business, a market it entered four years ago with the debut of its Android software, now the chief challenger to Apple Inc.'s iPhones.

In Motorola, Google gets a cellphone pioneer that has struggled in recent years. Motorola hasn't produced a mass-market hit since it introduced the Razr cellphone in 2005. Once the No. 2 cellphone maker, Motorola now ranks eighth with 2 percent of the worldwide market share, according to Gartner.

As had been expected, Google CEO Larry Page immediately named one of his top lieutenants, Dennis Woodside, as Motorola's CEO. He replaces Sanjay Jha, 49, who will stay on just long enough to assist in the ownership change.

Woodside, 43, has spent the past three years immersed in online advertising as president of Google's America region, which accounted for $17.5 billion of Google's revenue last year. Motorola Mobility Holdings Inc. booked $13.1 billion in revenue during its final year as an independent company.

Nevertheless, Woodside's background in online advertising is likely to raise questions about whether he is the best choice to oversee a company that specializes in making smartphones, tablet computers and cable-TV boxes.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,502.81	1,316.63	2,839.08
-1.67	0.64	-8.13
-0.01%	+0.05%	-0.29%

EXCHANGE RATES
In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0235	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7662	Philippine Peso	43.39
British Pound	0.6348	Indian Rupee	55.9125	Singapore Dollar	1.2771
Canadian Dollar	1.0228	Indonesian Rupiah	9368.75	South Korean Won	1172.72
Chinese Yuan	6.3327	Japanese Yen	79.491	Swiss Franc	0.9481
Euro	0.7894	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1403	Taiwan Dollar	29.552
		New Zealand Dollar	1.3307	Thailand Baht	31.5

Nation

US Army more selective on recruits, re-enlistments

WASHINGTON (AP)—Uncle Sam may not want you after all.

In sharp contrast to the peak years of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, the Army last year took in no recruits with misconduct convictions or drug or alcohol issues, according to internal documents obtained by The Associated Press. And soldiers already serving on active duty now must meet tougher standards to stay on for further tours in uniform.

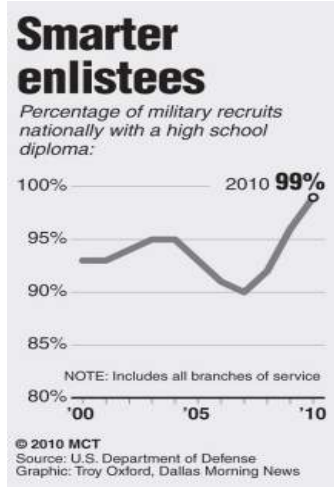
The Army is also spending hundreds of thousands of dollars less in bonuses to attract recruits or entice soldiers to remain.

It's all part of an effort to slash the size of the active duty Army from about 570,000 at the height of the Iraq war to 490,000 by 2017. The cutbacks began last year, and as of the end of March the Army was down to less than 558,000 troops.

For a time during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army lowered its recruiting standards, raising the number of recruits who entered the Army with moral, medical and criminal—including felony— waivers.

Recruits with misdemeanors, which could range from petty theft and writing bad checks to assault, were allowed into the Army, as well as those with some medical problems or low aptitude scores that might otherwise have disqualified them.

A very small fraction of recruits had waivers for felonies, which included convictions for manslaughter, vehicular homicide, robbery and a handful of sex crimes. The sex crimes often involved consensual sex when one of the individuals was under 18.



In 2006, about 20 percent of new Army recruits came in under some type of waiver, and by the next year it had grown to nearly three in 10. After the Defense Department issued new guidelines, the percentage needing waivers started to come down in 2009.

Now, as the Army moves to reduce its force, some soldiers will have to leave.

Officials say they hope to make cuts largely through voluntary attrition. But Gen. Ray Odierno, the Army chief of staff, has warned that as much as 35 percent of the cuts will be "involuntary" ones that force soldiers to abandon what they had hoped would be long military careers.

"This is going to be hard," said Gen. David Rodriguez, head of U.S. Army Forces Command. "This is tough business. As we increase things like reenlistment standards, some of the people who were able to reenlist three years ago won't be able to re-enlist again."

Commercial spacecraft speeds toward space station

AP

The Falcon 9 SpaceX rocket is seen during a time exsposure as it lifts off from space launch complex 40 at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Fla., early Tuesday, May 22, 2012.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Opening a new, entrepreneurial era in spaceflight, a ship built by a billionaire businessman sped toward the International Space Station with a load of groceries and other supplies Tuesday after a spectacular middle-of-the-night blastoff.

The launch of the Falcon 9 rocket and its unmanned Dragon capsule marked the first time a commercial spacecraft has been sent to the orbiting outpost.

Tracing a fiery arc across the night sky, the rocket lifted off just before 4 a.m. and smoothly boosted the capsule into orbit. The capsule is expected to rendezvous with the space station within days, delivering a half-ton of provisions for its six crew members.

It is considered just a test flight—in fact, the capsule was packed with only nonessential items, in case something went disastrously wrong—but if all goes well with this mission and others like it, commercial spaceships could be carrying astronauts to and from the space station in three to five years.

"Falcon flew perfectly!!" billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, founder of the SpaceX company, said via Twitter. "Feels like a giant weight just came off my back."

Musk later told reporters: "For us, it's like winning the Super Bowl."

Up to now, flights to the space station were something only major governments had done.

The White House offered congratulations.

"Every launch into space is a thrilling event, but this one is especially exciting," said John Holdren, President Barack Obama's chief science adviser. "This expanded role for the private sector will free up more of NASA's resources to do what NASA does best—tackle the most demanding technological challenges in space, including those of human spaceflight beyond low-Earth orbit."

Serial stabbings suspect guilty of murder in Mich.

FLINT, Mich. (AP)—A drifter accused of terrorizing a struggling city by faking car trouble then stabbing strangers who came to his aid was quickly convicted of murder Tuesday after jurors rejected an insanity defense.

It was the first trial for Elias Abuelazam, who is accused of a series of sometimes fatal stabbings in Michigan and two other states that began almost immediately after his arrival in Flint in May 2010.

After an eight-day trial, jurors took just a few hours to return a verdict in the death of Arnold Minor, a 49-year-old handyman stabbed after midnight near downtown Flint two summers ago. Members of the victim's family sat in the front row clutching a box with his cremated remains. The attack was one of 14 in the Flint area linked to Abuelazam—five people died—although the Israeli immigrant is not charged in every incident.

Abuelazam

"It's been 658 days—I've been counting. He's going where he needs to be," Minor's sister, Stephanie Ward, said of Abuelazam's prison sentence. "He's not crazy."

Defense attorney Ed Zeineh barely mentioned the overwhelming evidence against Abuelazam during his closing argument and instead focused on his mental health, which dominated the end of the trial.

A psychiatrist hired by the defense said Abuelazam, 35, was paranoid schizophrenic who punched out after working the afternoon shift at a liquor store and cruised dark, lonely streets in his Chevy Blazer at the behest of "evil forces" in his mind. Three experts testifying for prosecutors, however, said Abuelazam was not mentally ill at the time and knew exactly what he was doing.

Minor's stabbing and the others were "planned, focused, done with care," Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said in his closing remarks to the jury.

Minor's blood was found on the steering wheel in Abuelazam's SUV and on pants and shoes inside his luggage as he tried to flee to Israel, his native country, in August 2010. The judge allowed four other stabbing victims to show their wounds to the jury and point to Abuelazam as the man responsible for the injuries.

ACROSS THE NATION

Jury sees video of GI buying bomb-making items

WACO, Texas (AP)—A Muslim soldier on the run for three weeks after going AWOL from a Kentucky Army post found no help from friends in his Dallas-area hometown, where he hatched a plan and bought supplies to blow up a restaurant filled with Fort Hood troops, according to testimony at his federal trial Tuesday. Pfc. Naser Jason Abdo, who was AWOL from Fort Campbell, Ky., bought pressure cookers, clocks, wires and other bomb-making components at a Dallas-area store in the early morning of July 26, according to surveillance footage and receipts shown to jurors. Abdo, 22, faces up to life in prison if convicted of attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and five other charges.

Nevada wildfire spreads, destroys 7 homes

HOLBROOK JUNCTION, Nev. (AP)—A fast-moving wildfire erupted in a rural neighborhood near the Nevada-California line and destroyed at least seven homes Tuesday but no injuries were reported and the danger was subsiding as winds died at nightfall along the Sierra's eastern front. Between 100 and 200 homes were threatened at one time in the Topaz Ranch Estates about 50 miles southeast of Lake Tahoe after the fire broke out before 2 p.m.—possibly after a controlled burn conducted in the area the day before rekindled in the winds gusting up to 40 mph, authorities said.

Joplin remembers deadly tornado, 1 year later

JOPLIN, Mo. (AP)—Carrying small American flags and wearing T-shirts bearing the names of friends and loved ones who died when a massive tornado tore through Joplin one year ago, thousands of people made a somber march Tuesday through some of the town's hardest-hit neighborhoods. Residents and officials are dedicated to remembering their losses but are also committed to what is certain to be a long, slow recovery from a tornado that killed 161 people and injured hundreds of others. The storm last May wiped away entire neighborhoods in the city of 50,000, destroyed Joplin's only public high school and left behind a ghastly moonscape of block after city block of foundations wiped clean of their structures.

Oregon police: 5 dead in apparent murder-suicide

SALEM, Ore. (AP)—A mother and her three children were found dead in a burned house Tuesday in northwest Oregon, and the children's father was found dead later in a car, all victims of what police said appeared to be a murder-suicide. The woman and children were discovered early Tuesday when Salem firefighters went to a house on fire in a working-class neighborhood of old homes, small apartment complexes and mature trees. A neighbor reported awaking about 5:30 a.m. to the fire. Dan Grove told the Salem Statesman Journal that he "saw dark, black smoke pouring out of the house. I heard people screaming and yelling. It was for real." About five hours later, the father was found dead in a vehicle about 75 miles south of Salem, in Cottage Grove.

Asia

AP: North Korea upgrading its rocket launch site

WASHINGTON (AP)—Satellite imagery shows North Korea is upgrading its old launch site in the secretive country's northeast to handle larger rockets, like space launch vehicles and intercontinental missiles, a U.S. institute claimed Tuesday.

The U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies said the upgrade of the Musudan-ri site began last summer and reflects North Korean determination to expand its rocket program.

The U.S. and other nations are worried such rockets could be developed to deliver nuclear weapons.

North Korea on Tuesday vowed to push ahead with its nuclear program because of what it called U.S. hostility. The international community is pressuring North Korea to refrain from conducting what would be its third nuclear test, following a failed attempt in mid-April to launch a satellite into space.

That launch, using its biggest rocket to date, the Unha-3, was from more sophisticated site at Sohae on the country's northwestern coast.

An April 29 aerial image of Musudan-ri on the opposite coast shows the initial stages of construction of a launch pad and rocket assembly building that could support rockets at least as big as the Unha-3, the institute told The Associated Press. A crane is visible where the launch pad is being built 1.1 miles from the old one. At the current pace of construction, the facilities should be operational by 2016-2017, the institute said.

"This major upgrade program, designed to enable Musudan-ri to launch bigger and better rockets far into the future, represents both a significant resource commitment and an important sign of North Korea's determination," said Joel Wit, editor of the institute's website, 38 North.

The institute says the assembly building shows similarities to one at the Semnan launch complex in Iran, which has a long history of missile cooperation with North Korea. But, officials there say it's premature to conclude the two nations cooperated in designing the new facility.

AP

This April 29, 2012 satellite image provided by DigitalGlobe shows the Musudan-ri rocket launch site in northeastern North Korea.

Everest will be crowded again days after 4 killed

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Days after four people died amid a traffic jam of climbers scrambling to conquer Mount Everest, Nepal officials said a similar rush up the world's tallest peak will begin soon, and there's little they can do to control it.

About 200 climbers are expected to attempt to scale the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) mountain between Friday and Sunday, Nepali mountaineering official Gyanendra Shrestha said. Some have been at a staging camp for days, waiting for a window of good weather during this worse-than-usual climbing season.

A similar crowd of 208 climbers headed to the summit last week, and four died Saturday in one of the deadliest days ever on the mountain.

Ha Wenyi of China, Eberhard Schaaf of Germany, Nepal-born Canadian Shriya Shah and South Korean Song Won-bin died on their descents from the summit, apparently from exhaustion and altitude sickness.

Shrestha also said a Nepalese Sherpa guide who had been reported missing reached the base camp safely on Monday. The guide was separated from his group and did not have communications equipment, Shrestha said Tuesday.

The deaths have raised concerns about overcrowding above the highest camp on the mountain. The area is nicknamed the "death zone" because of the steep icy slope, treacherous conditions and low oxygen level.

Describing a "traffic jam" of climbers Saturday, Shrestha said climbers were heading to the summit at 2:30 p.m., even though 11 a.m. is the latest start time recommended. That meant climbers were staying too long at high altitudes and exhausting their oxygen supplies because they didn't anticipate having to wait.

Now, with a similarly large number of climbers expected to head up the same trail under similar conditions, Nepalese authorities acknowledged safety concerns but said they can't turn any of them away.

"The climbers have received the permits to climb within specific dates. We cannot say who gets to get to the summit on which dates because of the unpredictable weather. When weather clears up they all want to benefit," said Nepal's Tourism Ministry spokesman, Bal Krishna Ghimire.

Apa, a Nepalese Sherpa guide who has scaled Everest a record 21 times, said climbers are eager to take advantage of good conditions because "the window of good weather is so short," and they are afraid they may not get another chance to climb to the summit.

He said the traffic jam of climbers going up and down the same icy trail makes it hazardous, especially with climbers already exhausted from having climbed all night from the last camp, at 8,000 meters (26,246 feet).

"And having to wait for extra hours and the delays only makes the situation worse," said Apa, who uses only one name.

Philippine justice denies charges, blames Aquino

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The chief justice of the Philippine Supreme Court denied Tuesday that he stole from the country's coffers and said he would open his bank accounts for inspection if the 188 lawmakers behind his impeachment do the same.

In testimony in his impeachment trial, Chief Justice Renato Corona accused President Benigno Aquino III of conspiring to remove him from office. The Senate trial has become the main focus of Aquino's anti-corruption effort.

The anti-graft prosecutor testified last week that Corona failed to declare $10 million to $12 million recorded in 82 bank accounts under his name.

Corona said he has four dollar accounts and does not have that much. He said he did not declare the dollar accounts in his statement of assets because of bank secrecy laws that protect the confidentiality of foreign deposits. He said he accumulated his wealth as a successful lawyer before joining the government in the 1990s and from the sale of his wife's property.

Corona signed a statement waiving privacy rights for his and his wife's bank accounts on the condition that the 188 members of the House of Representatives who impeached him also make their accounts public. He said such a move would help heal divisions caused by his impeachment in "a nation at a standstill."

After reading a lengthy statement in the Senate, where he is on trial on allegations of corruption and betraying public trust, Corona asked to be excused, abruptly leaving the hall without permission and before he could be questioned by prosecutors.

In an unusual showdown between two branches of government, an angry Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile ordered security guards to shut the building to prevent Corona from leaving. Corona, 63, later returned in a wheelchair and his lawyers said he felt weak because he was diabetic and did not intend to flee.

He was later brought to the intensive care unit of a Manila hospital and his spokesman Midas Marquez said that his diagnosis was "a possible heart attack."

Aquino spokeswoman Abigail Valte said Corona did not understand the concept of accountability.

"Having been given his day in court, he has demonstrated how lacking he is in understanding the institutions that have been called to hold him to account to the people," she said.

The case against Corona is based on a law requiring public officials to disclose their assets, and has sparked fears of a constitutional crisis.

He is the first chief justice to be impeached in the Philippines, which has been roiled by political unrest and failed coups since Aquino's mother, former President Corazon Aquino, toppled dictator Ferdinand Marcos and restored democracy in 1986.

AP

Philippine Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona sits in a wheelchair after being forced back to court following abruptly leaving the witness stand without the permission of the Senate judges during his impeachment trial at the Senate in Manila, Philippines, Tuesday, May 22, 2012.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indian passenger train rams freight train; 25 dead

HYDERABAD, India (AP)—A passenger train rammed into a parked freight train and caught fire before dawn Tuesday in southern India, killing at least 25 people and injuring dozens more. Rescuers worked for about six hours to pull some 70 survivors from the twisted and smoldering wreckage near the southwestern border of Andhra Pradesh state. Medical workers brought drinking water to traumatized survivors at the scene, while mothers cried for help in finding their lost children. Witnesses reported seeing victims on fire. At least 40 people were hospitalized with injuries, with about 10 in critical condition, local police chief Charu Sinha said.

Gunmen open fire at rally in Pakistan, 9 killed

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Gunmen opened fire on a political rally in the Pakistani city of Karachi on Tuesday, killing at least nine people and sparking rioting, police said. City police chief Akhtar Gorchani said nine people were killed and more then 30 wounded in shootouts. Another police officer, Mohammed Amir, said the attackers fired on a rally held by Awami Tehrik, a small nationalist group, and it was attended by members of several other parties in the city. Several cars and shops were burned following the incident. It was unclear who the attackers were, Amir said. He said authorities were trying to restore order.

Myanmar power cuts draw protest in main city

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A small group of demonstrators carried candles and tied up traffic in Myanmar's largest city Tuesday evening as discontent grows over chronic power cuts in the country, which is easing toward democracy after decades of military rule. The problem, which has exasperated Myanmar's citizens for more than a decade, has sparked the first serious street protests this year in the country's new atmosphere of reform and reconciliation. Two days of rallies in Mandalay this past weekend drew hundreds of people and marked the largest protests since the army crushed monk-led demonstrations in 2007.

Malaysian opposition's Anwar charged over protest

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian prosecutors have again charged the government's most prominent challenger, alleging that he and two allies broke various laws during a massive street rally to demand electoral fairness. The charges filed Tuesday against Anwar Ibrahim come just four months after he was acquitted of sodomy charges that he claims were an attempt to damage him politically. He said the new accusations, ahead of national elections that many speculate will be held by September, have the same motive. "It is clearly a politically motivated charge. Elections are around the corner," Anwar told reporters.

World

UN nuclear chief: Deal with Iran reached on probe

VIENNA (AP)—Despite some remaining differences, a deal has been reached with Iran that will allow the U.N. nuclear agency to restart a long-stalled probe into suspicions that Tehran has secretly worked on developing nuclear arms, the U.N. nuclear chief said Tuesday.

The news from International Atomic Energy Agency chief Yukiya Amano, who returned from Tehran on Tuesday, comes just a day before Iran and six world powers meet in Baghdad for negotiations and could present a significant turning point in the heated dispute over Iran's nuclear intentions. The six nations hope the talks will result in an agreement by the Islamic Republic to stop enriching uranium to a higher level that could be turned quickly into the fissile core of nuclear arms.

There was a possibility that the conference may be delayed by weather. A sand storm closed down Baghdad's airport's Tuesday.

Amano

Iran insists its nuclear program is only for power and medical applications, not weapons.

On Tuesday, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported that Iranian scientists had inserted a domestically made fuel rod, which contains pellets of 20 percent enriched uranium, into the core of a research nuclear reactor in Tehran.

The advance would be another step in achieving proficiency in the entire nuclear fuel cycle. Iran said in January that it had produced the first nuclear fuel rod, and that it had to find a way to make them because Western sanctions prohibit their purchase from foreign markets.

By compromising on the IAEA probe, Iranian negotiators in Baghdad could argue that the onus was now on the other side to show some flexibility and temper its demands. Although Amano's trip and the talks in Baghdad are formally separate, Iran hopes progress with the IAEA can boost its chances Wednesday in pressing the U.S. and Europe to roll back sanctions that have hit Iran's critical oil exports and blacklisted the country from international banking networks.

It was unclear, though, how far the results achieved by Amano would serve that purpose, with him returning without the two sides signing the deal, despite his upbeat comments.

After talks in Tehran between Amano and chief Iranian nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, "the decision was made ... to reach agreement" on the mechanics of giving the IAEA access to sites, scientists and documents it seeks to restart its probe," Amano told reporters at Vienna airport after his one-day trip to Tehran.

Amano said differences existed on "some details," without elaborating but added that Jalili had assured him that these "will not be an obstacle to reach agreement." He spoke of "an almost clean text" that will be signed soon, although he could not say when.

Western diplomats are skeptical of Iran's willingness to open past and present activities to full perusal, believing it would only reveal what they suspect and Tehran denies—that the Islamic Republic has researched and developed components of a nuclear weapons program. They say that Tehran's readiness to honor any agreement it has signed is the true test of its willingness to cooperate

Cuba's first daughter has gone beyond Castro name

AP

In this Aug. 12, 2011 file photo, daughter of Cuba's President Raul Castro, Mariela Castro, and Nicaragua's late political writer Tomas Borge, attend a celebration marking the 10th anniversary of the National Center for Sex Education, CENESEX, in Havana, Cuba.

HAVANA (AP)—She has her uncle's penchant for speaking her mind. From her father, she inherited a disciplined tenacity.

But Mariela Castro, a married mother of three and member of Cuba's most powerful family, has paved her own way in making gay rights her life's cause. And now the 49-year-old daughter of President Raul Castro is about to make a controversial visit to the United States for a conference on Latin America.

"She has put herself at the forefront of the struggle for rights for the LGBT community," said Gloria A. Careaga Perez, a professor of psychology from the National Autonomous University of Mexico who will be on Mariela Castro's panel at the San Francisco gathering of the Latin American Studies Association on Thursday. "What she does is praiseworthy because she is a pioneer, an academic and political authority who stands up for human rights."

Requests to interview Castro were not granted ahead of her trip, and four friends and admirers declined to speak on the record, a symptom of Cubans' deep misgivings about openly discussing members of the Castro family. But while others are shy of giving their name, Castro has not been, particularly when it comes to her signature issue. She has lobbied for years for her father's government to legalize same-sex marriage, something he has not done. Earlier this month, Castro said the president privately shares her views on gay rights, and declined to push him to go public.

While she has no doubt benefited from her surname, Castro says it has always been important to her to have a separate identity.

"I never wanted any part of that, `the daughter of ...'" she said several years ago at a book launch in Havana. "I despise people who get on that kind of carriage, and I love myself very much for not doing so. I never did, and I never will."

But no matter how much Castro desires to set her own course, controversy will follow her on her trip to San Francisco precisely because of her father and uncle, both reviled by many Cuban-Americans and enemies of Washington for more than half a century.

When word came last week that the State Department had issued an entry visa to Castro—as well as at least 60 other Cuban scholars—Cuban-American politicians were quick to pounce. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio accused her of bringing a campaign of anti-Americanism to U.S. shores, while New Jersey Sen. Robert Menendez said he was "indignant" over her presence.

They and others noted that U.S. rules prohibited Communist Party members and other high-ranking Cuban government officials from entry without special dispensation. While Mariela Castro is not officially part of the government, her personal ties to Cuban leaders are clearly evident.

The State Department has refused to comment on individual visa cases. Castro is due to chair a panel on the politics of sexual diversity in San Francisco and to meet with the local LGBT community. On May 29, she is to participate in a talk at the New York Public Library.

As head of Cuba's National Center for Sex Education, or Cenesex, since 2000, Castro has acquired a much higher profile than her siblings and cousins, becoming a leading advocate for gay rights in Cuba, Latin America and beyond.

Attractive, intelligent and quick to smile, Castro has a flair for dressing elegantly in bright colors. She is commonly seen heading up annual gay pride marches in the capital, flanked by six-foot-tall transvestites. Outspoken and self-confident, she meets regularly with visiting dignitaries, including a delegation of U.S. women last year, and travels the world giving talks about gay rights.

Hezbollah appeals for calm after Syria kidnapping

BEIRUT (AP)—The leader of Lebanon's Shiite militant group Hezbollah appealed for calm Tuesday after people blocked roads and burned tires in Beirut to protest the kidnapping of 11 Lebanese Shiites in neighboring Syria.

The abductions in Syria's northern Aleppo province threatened to ignite dangerous sectarian tensions and fueled fears that Lebanon is getting drawn into the chaos next door. The Lebanese were on their way home from a religious pilgrimage in Iran when Syrian rebels intercepted their vehicles, Syria's state-run SANA news agency said. The rebels abducted the 11 men and a Syrian driver. The women were released.

Lebanese security officials confirmed the kidnapping.

As the news of the kidnappings spread, residents of the southern suburbs of Beirut, a Shiite area, took to the streets and burned tires and blocked roads in protest. The leader of Hezbollah, a strong ally of the Syrian regime, appealed for calm and warned his followers against revenge attacks targeting Syrians.

"This is strictly prohibited," Sheik Hassan Nasrallah said in a televised speech.

He said the Lebanese government must press for the pilgrims' release.

"We will work day and night until these beloved people are with us," Nasrallah said.

Hezbollah has stood by Syrian President Bashar Assad as he struggles to put down a 15-month-old uprising.

Sunnis form the backbone of the Syrian revolt, which has unleashed boiling sectarian tensions. Assad and the ruling elite in Syria belong to the tiny Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiism.

Within hours of the kidnappings, the Syrian government began moving into Azaz in Aleppo province, where the abductions took place, activists said.

Syria's uprising began in March 2011 with mostly peaceful calls for reform, but the government's brutal crackdown on dissent led many in the opposition to take up arms. The U.N. estimates more than 9,000 people have been killed as the conflict spirals toward civil war.

Tuesday's kidnappings come at a time of deep tension in Lebanon over Syria. The countries share a complex web of political and sectarian ties and rivalries, which can quickly turn violent. The conflict already has spilled across the border, with deadly results.

Legion's latest admission revives hypocrisy charge

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Legion of Christ religious order, already discredited for concealing the crimes of its pedophile founder, suffered another blow to its credibility Tuesday after its superior admitted he knew in 2005 that his most prominent priest had fathered a child, yet allowed him to keep teaching and preaching about morality.

The admission by the Rev. Alvaro Corcuera is likely to enrage members of the Legion and its lay branch who have endured years of apologies, hypocrisy and explanations for the crimes of the Catholic order's founder, the Rev. Marcial Maciel, who sexually abused his seminarians and fathered three children with two women.

The Rev. Thomas Williams, the public face of the Legion in America, admitted last week that he had violated his vow of celibacy and fathered a child several years ago, going public with a statement after The Associated Press presented the Legion with the accusation.

On Tuesday, Corcuera wrote a letter to all Legion members admitting that he had heard rumors of the child before he became superior in 2005, but took Williams' word that they were false. Williams is a well-known U.S. television personality, author and moral theologian.

Corcuera said that after becoming superior in 2005, he confirmed Williams' paternity and asked him to withdraw from public ministry. Yet he did nothing to prevent him from teaching morality to seminarians or preaching about ethics on television, in his many speaking engagements or in his 14 books, including "Knowing Right from Wrong: A Christian Guide to Conscience."

Williams, for example, remained dean of the theology department at the Legion's university in Rome until 2007—two years after Corcuera knew about the child. As chancellor of the university, Corcuera could have ousted him, yet Williams taught theology up until this past February when he was finally removed.

Corcuera said he placed restrictions on Williams' ministry in 2010, but as recently as last month Williams was the keynote speaker at a Legion-affiliated women's conference in the U.S. state of Rhode Island and was scheduled to speak at another conference in October in Michigan.

In his letter Tuesday, Corcuera admitted that he "was not diligent in setting proper restrictions and enforcing them."

In a new statement Tuesday, Williams said he had resisted Corcuera's encouragement to keep a low profile, saying he had hoped to move beyond the child—"this sin in my past"—to do good work for the church.

Focus

AP

In this Friday, May 11, 2012 photo, customs officials looks at confiscated heroin wrapped in packages, following a news conference in Karachi, Pakistan.

South Asia now a rising force in global meth trade

By SEBASTIAN ABBOT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Iran, Pakistan and other South Asian countries are a fast-rising force in the global methamphetamine market, with drug cartels thriving off the weak governance and law enforcement that have long fueled the region's heroin trade.

This environment has allowed criminals to tap into the countries' relatively advanced pharmaceutical industries to get their hands on meth's two main ingredients: ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. The drug is more valuable than heroin, and some say, more addictive.

Highlighting this scourge are U.N. figures showing that the number of meth labs uncovered in Iran rose from two to 166 in three years, while the supply of precursor chemicals in Pakistan has more than tripled over roughly the same period.

A Supreme Court case in Pakistan involving the prime minister's son has drawn more attention to the problem. The case revolves around two Pakistani pharmaceutical companies that allegedly used political connections to obtain huge amounts of ephedrine and are suspected of diverting it to people in the drug trade who could have used it to make meth worth billions of dollars. The companies have denied any wrongdoing.

Ephedrine and pseudoephedrine are used to make common cold medicine, but either can also be used to manufacture meth easily at home or, in places like Mexico where the trade is most advanced, in huge labs indistinguishable from those of large pharmaceutical companies.

The greater South Asia region has a long history of drug manufacturing, but most of it has involved opium and heroin made from the vast quantities of poppy grown in Afghanistan and smuggled out through Pakistan and Iran.

As governments elsewhere clamp down on the availability of the precursor chemicals, this region is attracting more dealers, said Matt Nice of the Vienna-based International Narcotics Control Board, which enforces U.N. conventions regulating the manufacture and distribution of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine.

They look for a country with weak security and regulation "where you can obtain the chemicals because no one is paying attention, or it has never been a problem before," he said.

Iranian police dismantled 166 meth labs in 2010, up from just two in 2008, according to the U.N. Labs have also been dismantled in Sri Lanka and India, one of the world's largest manufacturers of precursor chemicals.

Worldwide, nearly 10,200 meth labs were seized in 2009, the most recent aggregate data available, according to the U.N. Most were small labs dismantled in the U.S. But the number of labs outside the U.S. has increased significantly in recent years.

Much of the meth produced in Iran is smuggled to East and Southeast Asia, which have some of the highest street prices and are facing an epidemic of addiction.

"Over the past five years, Iran went from a non-issue in the global synthetic drug trade to top 10 in the world in terms of seizures," said Jeremy Douglas, head of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime in Pakistan. "They are also arresting Iranian meth couriers and traffickers throughout East Asia."

There are up to 21 million amphetamine users in East and Southeast Asia, out of a total high-end estimate of 56 million worldwide, according to the U.N. Nearly half of all people seeking drug treatment in East and Southeast Asia in 2009 were methamphetamine users.

There are signs Pakistan could be vulnerable to the synthetic drug trade and headed in the same direction as Iran.

Pakistani authorities arrested a Malaysian man last year at the airport in Karachi with a suitcase containing hidden compartments of meth that he admitted was made in the city, said Douglas. Thai officials have also arrested several Pakistanis carrying meth at the airport in Bangkok who flew there from Pakistan, he said.

"There are indications meth is being produced in Pakistan," said Douglas. "It makes sense because the supply of the precursors is high, readily available and cheap."

The chemicals are also being smuggled out of Pakistan to neighboring Iran and other countries.

Iran reported significant seizures of ephedrine originating from Pakistan and Syria—294 kilograms (648 pounds) in 2010 and 375 kilograms (827 pounds) in 2011, the U.N said. Pakistan also seized 265 kilograms (584 pounds) of ephedrine in provinces bordering Iran in 2010.

Last year, Pakistan also intercepted 245 kilograms (540 pounds) of ephedrine at Karachi port, bound for Australia hidden in spice packages, said the U.N.

About 1.5 kilograms (3 pounds) of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine are needed to make 1 kilogram (2 pound) of meth. A single gram (0.04 ounces) of meth can fetch more than $1,000 in Japan, according to the U.N.

Nice, the U.N. drug control official, said ephedrine and pseudoephedrine are often smuggled in pill form, and the smugglers mislabel the merchandise as something innocuous, like vitamins, to elude law enforcement in countries with little experience of meth.

"Once they do start seeing this stuff, you have to ask yourself how long has this been going on and how much bigger is it?" said Nice.

Smuggling may be peanuts compared with the amount of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine that is being acquired in bulk from pharmaceutical companies in the region and diverted to drug cartels through front companies—the kind of deception that is suspected in the case before the Pakistani Supreme Court.

Most countries, including South Asian ones, are signatories to U.N. agreements that require them to report their ephedrine and pseudoephedrine needs to the International Narcotics Control Board each year.

The spike in amounts submitted by Pakistan and Iran in recent years has raised suspicions among U.N. officials that significant quantities may be diverted to drug traffickers.

Pakistan's need for ephedrine rose from 15,000 kilograms (about 33,000 pounds) in 2007 to 22,000 kilograms (nearly 50,000 pounds) in 2010, and pseudoephedrine from 10,000 kilograms (22,000 pounds) to 48,000 kilograms (nearly 106,000 pounds), according to the U.N. Iran's estimate for pseudoephedrine increased from 40,000 kilograms (more than 88,000 pounds) to 55,000 kilograms (more than 121,000 pounds) in 2010. Its estimate for ephedrine is negligible.

"When you start to see those numbers go up quickly, or wonder why they need so much more than anyone else in the region on a per capita basis, that is when we start to get a little concerned," said Nice.

The two pharmaceutical companies now before the Supreme Court were allotted 9,000 kilograms (nearly 20,000 pounds) of ephedrine in 2010 even though the country had already exceeded its annual estimate to the U.N., according to court documents. Neither company had previously been allocated ephedrine.

Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani's son, Ali Musa Gilani, is accused of using his influence to help the firms obtain the ephedrine. He denies the allegation.

The companies initially said they planned to convert the ephedrine into tablets and export them to companies in Iraq and Afghanistan. But the amounts vastly exceeded those countries' needs, and the Pakistani firms said they eventually sold the tablets domestically.

Berlex Lab International, which received 6,500 kilograms (14,330 pounds) of ephedrine, said its tablets were sold to Can Pharmaceutical in the southern city of Multan. But investigators discovered the address for the company was a residential house in Multan, and nobody answered the door. The owner of the company didn't answer his phone.

The other firm, Danas Pharmaceutical, which received 2,500 kilograms (about 5,500 pounds) of ephedrine, said it sold its tablets to 14 customers in northwest Pakistan. But investigators indicated the "thin population" and poor infrastructure in the area couldn't absorb that number of tablets.

"The case shows that the regulatory framework needs strengthening," said Douglas, the U.N. official in Pakistan.

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Environment

Toss that toothbrush…onto the compost heap

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

Annually, 450 million plastic toothbrushes make their way to landfills nationally, according to recycling experts. The majority of those toothbrushes never biodegrade and will remain there intact for decades.

To reduce those numbers, a company known for creating compostable products made from plants—not petroleum—launches what it says is the country's first compostable toothbrush.

World Centric has unveiled a line of compostable toothbrushes and travel cases that are made from a plant-based resin called Ingeo. The toothbrush and case are certified compostable by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI), according to a company press release.

The toothbrush is designed to fully compost within 3 to 6 six months when sent to a commercial composting facility. Simply sending the toothbrush and case to the landfill will not allow it to biodegrade because that kind of site is not designed for that function, according to the company.

WORLD CENTRIC/MCT
Toothbrushes that will compost are now available in bright colors, and include a case.

For customers who don't have access to a commercial composting facility, World Centric will provide a prepaid envelope that customers can use return the toothbrush and case. The company will then send the returned product to a composting facility for biodegradation.

The soft bristles of the toothbrush are made of nylon but are not compostable; the industry is still working to come up with bristles that are fully compostable. A handy notch between the head and the handle of the toothbrush is designed to make it easy to break off the head before to sending it to a composting facility.

The 7-inch toothbrush and case comes in blue, green and orange and sells for $4.55. They are available at natural grocery stores, some Whole Foods stores nationwide and online at http://www.worldcentric.org.

Running from climate change may trip up some species, study says

By SANDI DOUGHTON
THE SEATTLE TIMES

SEATTLE—As climate change transforms their habitat, some animals are already on the move. But a new analysis from the University of Washington warns that many species won't be able to run fast enough to survive a warming world.

On average, about 9 percent of the Western Hemisphere's mammals migrate too slowly to keep pace with the rapid climate shifts expected over the next century, says the study published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. In some areas, including parts of the Appalachian Mountains and the Amazon basin, nearly 40 percent of mammals may be unable to reach safe haven in time.

"It's another warning sign that the climate is changing, and that not all plants and animals are going to be able to deal with it," said co-author Joshua Lawler, associate professor of environmental and forest science at the UW.

The species most at risk include the monkeys of Central and South America and tiny creatures such as shrews and moles. Deer, elk and big carnivores such as wolves and coyotes stand a better chance, because they evolved to cover long distances.

The study is the first to combine climate-change projections with estimates of how rapidly mammals shift their ranges.

"This paper does a really nice job of taking that critical next step," said David Ackerly, of the University of California, Berkeley. Ackerly was not involved in the UW project, but his lab laid some of the ground work by estimating the rate at which temperature changes are expected to sweep across the landscape as rising concentrations of greenhouses gases warm the planet.

Over the past decade, scientists have discovered that moving day is already here for a wide range of species. Mountain moths are fluttering upslope to cooler temperatures and some butterflies have shifted their territories more than 130 miles.

American pikas, which were never found above 7,800 feet at the turn of the 20th century, now live at elevations nearly 2,000 feet higher.

The UW scientists focused their analysis on 493 mammal species, from moose to the 2-inch-long pygmy shrew. The researchers estimated the animals' migratory rates based on body size and how quickly they reproduce.

Individual rabbits may not travel far from their birthplace, but if every generation moves a little bit, the species as a whole can cover a lot of ground. New World monkeys, which take several years to mature, disperse more slowly.

The team combined 10 computer models to estimate the most likely range of temperature changes over the next 100 years, said lead author Carrie Schloss.

Some of the results were surprising. While temperature spikes are expected to be most pronounced at northern latitudes, many of the imperiled species live near the equator. One reason for their poor outlook is that tropical creatures are adapted to an environment where temperatures rarely change, Lawler explained.

Also, flat terrain, such as the Amazon basin and the Central United States, forces animals to travel farther to find cooler or more hospitable climes.

Mammals who live near mountains might have an easier time, Lawler said. They don't have to climb far to find relief from the heat. That's contrary to earlier studies that concluded mountain-dwelling animals might be in more danger of extinction.

If the new analysis is right, mammals of the Pacific Northwest don't have much to worry about. In Western Washington and Oregon, the ocean is expected to moderate climate change, Lawler said. Effects are likely to be more severe in the Inland Northwest, where habitats such as sagebrush steppe are already on the edge.

Competition challenges college students to create stormwater management strategies

WASHINGTON, D.C—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is launching a new design competition called the Campus RainWorks Challenge to encourage student teams on college and university campuses across the country to develop innovative approaches to stormwater management.

Stormwater is a major cause of water pollution in urban areas in the U.S., impacting the health of people across the country as well as tens of thousands of miles of rivers, streams, and coastal shorelines, and hundreds of thousands of acres of lakes, reservoirs, and ponds.

The competition will help raise awareness of green design and planning approaches at colleges and universities, and train the next generation of landscape architects, planners, and engineers in green infrastructure principles and design.

Student teams, working with a faculty adviser, will submit design plans for a proposed green infrastructure project for their campus. Registration for the Campus RainWorks Challenge opens Sept. 4, and entries must be submitted by Dec. 14, 2012 for consideration. Winning entries will be selected by EPA and announced in April 2013. Winning teams will earn a cash prize of $1,500 to $2,500, as well as $8,000 to $11,000 in funds for their faculty adviser to conduct research on green infrastructure.

In 2013, EPA plans to expand Campus RainWorks by inviting students to design and complete a demonstration project assessing innovative green infrastructure approaches on their campus.

"Reducing stormwater pollution requires innovative approaches and America's college students are incredibly creative and talented," said Nancy Stoner, acting assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Water. "The Campus RainWorks Challenge will engage students across the country in tackling one of the toughest challenges to clean water and show them the opportunities in environmental careers."

EPA is encouraging the use of green infrastructure as a solution to help manage stormwater runoff. Green Infrastructure uses vegetation, soils, and natural processes to manage stormwater runoff at its source and provide other community benefits, including economic development.. Green infrastructure is increasingly being used to supplement or substitute for single-purpose "gray" infrastructure investments such as pipes, and ponds. The Campus RainWorks Challenge will help encourage the use of green infrastructure projects on college and university campuses to manage stormwater discharges.

More information on the Campus RainWorks Challenge:

http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/crw_challenge.cfm. ***(EPA)***

DO YOUR PART

Preserve summer's goodness

By TERRI BENNETT
MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

If you're anything like me you are savoring the bounty of fresh produce arriving this season. My vegetable garden is thriving and I am also enjoying the fresh fruits and veggies I find at my local farmer's market. Shopping for foods that are in-season is an important way to Do Your Part because that produce isn't being shipped around the world to get to your table, it's at its freshest, and is usually much more affordable. However, when summer is over, you don't have to miss out of your favorite flavors. A little extra work right now will help you enjoy those summer foods all year long.

Preserving foods was something many of our grandparents and great-grandparents did. Now, this peak season secret is becoming more commonplace as people strive to eat smarter and save some money. There are three main ways to preserve foods and the easiest is freezing. It doesn't take much time or preparation, and you can freeze almost anything. Use airtight freezer bags or containers that can be easily stacked to make the most of the room available in your freezer.

Canning is the traditional way to preserve what you buy or comes from your garden. This method takes a little time and know-how but more practically, a pressure cooker, glass jars, and lids. If not done properly, food can spoil. However, canned foods store well, for years, and you can line your pantry with glass jars of seasonal goodness that can be quickly reheated.

Drying foods is the third method of food preservation. There are many ways to dry food, but using a food dehydrator really is the best option. All you have to do is place the items in the appliance and wait. Not all foods are good for drying, but once dehydrated, and they store very easily.

The main thing to remember is to work with the foods that are in-season at the moment. For instance, blueberries, corn, and tomatoes are summer foods. Broccoli and pears are fall foods. Winter's harvest brings oranges and sweet potatoes. And in spring look for asparagus, limes, and even green beans. To see what's in season where you live and where your nearest farmer's market is, check out DoYourPart.com/Columns.

Buying in-season produce is also a good way to save money while you shop. It's usually much less expensive than buying foods that have traveled the globe. Plus, you'll be cutting out all the resources it takes to package and ship it from so far away. Do Your Part and enjoy the summer season now—and throughout the year.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com

Life & Style

Phillips, Sanchez face off on 'Idol' finale

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jessica Sanchez wishes she could've changed one thing about the "American Idol" finale: her final song.

The judges completely dismissed "Change Nothing," the lukewarm potential future single that failed to fully showcase the 16-year-old singer's vocal prowess during the Fox talent competition's final performance round Tuesday.

"Idol" judge Randy Jackson told the high school student from Chula Vista, Calif., that it "lacked pop flavor," while Steven Tyler declared that it wasn't "the proper song for you." Sanchez agreed, informing the panel that she wanted something more "urban."

"Definitely, when I make my record, if I ever do, it's going to be a lot more me," she said.

Phillip Phillips, her bluesy 21-year-old fellow finalist, had better luck with his potential future single selection, a slow tempo acoustic ditty titled "Home," which the judges said recalled artists like Fleet Foxes, Paul Simon and Mumford and Sons. At one point during Phillips' final performance, the guitar-playing pawn shop worker from Leesburg, Ga., was accompanied by a marching band.

AP

In this April 25, 2012 file photo released by Fox, contestant Phillip Phillips performs on the singing competition series "American Idol," in Los Angeles. The "American Idol" winner will be announced May 23, 2012

It was a hit with the panel. Jackson beamed, "I love the song. I love you. I love the production. I love the marching band. Everything about that was perfect."

Sanchez fared better in the earlier rounds Tuesday evening. The panel declared that she won the first matchup featuring song selections by "Idol" overlord Simon Fuller, soaring with Whitney Houston's "I Have Nothing," while Phillips delivered a consistent rendition of Ben E. King's "Stand by Me."

"It's like a battle of the opposites," said Jennifer Lopez. "How do you compare?"

The second round recalled the finalists' favorite previous "Idol" performances. Sanchez reprised "The Prayer" by Andrea Boccelli and Celine Dion from the Las Vegas solo round, and Phillips crooned "Movin' Out" from Billy Joel week. Lopez gave the bout to Phillip; Tyler said Sanchez took it; and Jackson declared it a "dead heat."

The winner with the most viewer votes will be crowned Wednesday.

LA designer says Facebook bride wore her bridal dress

AP

This photo provided by Facebook and released on Tuesday, May 22, 2012, shows Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan at their wedding ceremony in Palo Alto, Calif., Saturday, May 19, 2012.

DENVER (AP)—Los Angeles-based designer Claire Pettibone says Priscilla Chan was wearing one of her dresses when she married Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

Pettibone wrote on her blog that she didn't know Chan was wearing one of her most popular creations until she saw one of the photos released from Saturday's surprise ceremony.

Pettibone's publicist said Tuesday that based on a review of sales records, the designer believes Chan used a different last name to buy the dress with an Italian lace overlay at a Denver bridal shop in October. It sells for $4,700.

Facebook representatives didn't return emails seeking confirmation.

The owner of the Little White Dress Bridal Shop, Cate Malone, tells KMGH-TV that Chan returned to the store to buy accessories in April and that she didn't know who Chan was.

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of

Antonia Taitano Pinaula Deleon Guerrero

Better known as
"Antonian (Tina) Apu"

would like to extend our sincerest gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to all our families, friends and neighbors here and abroad, for your kindness, support and words of encouragement during our time of sorrow. Your most comforting expression of sympathy and prayers has deeply touched us. Thank you very much from our hearts and we will always remember you in our prayers.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Ginen I Familia

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of

Henry T. Arurang

Born on February 23, 1942 and was called
to eternal rest on May 14, 2012 at the age of 70.

In his new life, he now joins his:
Wife: Elena K. Arurang
Daughter: Rebecca K. Arurang
Son: Flory K. Arurang

His peaceful spirit will live in the hearts of his:
Children: **Francisca A.**/Pedro LG. Cruz (Theillia Arurang & Joseph S. Palacios [Elena and Joefrain], Peter Jr. A. Cruz & Michelle A. Cruz [Caleb], Patrick A. Cruz)
Francisco K. Aruruang and Pauline P. Arurang (Hank Jr., Conseco John, Chicko Hensus)
Flora K. Aruruang and Eternity Eiechar

Holy Rosary will be said at 7:00 pm from May 23 to 25, 2012 at the family residence in Susupe.

On Saturday, May 26, 2012, a memorial service will be held at 10:00 am at the CHC Morgue, followed by viewing. At 12:00 NOON his body will be escorted to his residence in Susupe and will be escorted at 1:00 pm to the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery for interment service.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Kmal Mesulang

From: Children and Families

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Battleship

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Liam Neeson, Taylor Kitsch
Science fiction, War • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Milton Bradley's strategic board game gets a sci-fi facelift with this Universal Pictures production from director Peter Berg (Hancock). The action will pit a small fleet of naval ships against an alien force intent on enriching Earth's valuable assets to ensure their survival. Taylor Kitsch (Wolverine) and True Blood's Alexander Skarsgard star alongside Liam Neeson, Rihanna, and Brooklyn Decker.

Raven

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:45
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:45
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

John Cusack, Luke Evans, Brendan Gleeson
Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis

IIn this gritty thriller, Edgar Allan Poe (John Cusack, Being John Malkovich) joins forces with a young Baltimore detective (Luke Evans, Immortals) to hunt down a mad serial killer who's using Poe's own works as the basis in a string of brutal murders. Directed by James McTeigue (V for Vendetta, Ninja Assassin), the film also stars Alice Eve (Sex and the City 2), Brendan Gleeson (In Bruges) and Oliver Jackson-Cohen (Faster).

What To Expect When You're Expecting

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez
Comedy • Rated PG 13

★ ★ ★

The Dictator

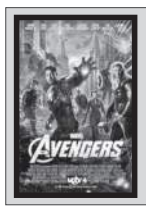
Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Sacha Baron Cohen, Ana Faris
Comedy • Rated R

Dark Shadows

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter
Horror • Rated PG 13



Marvel's The Avengers

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Robert Downey, Jr., Chris Evans, Samuel L. Jackson
Action • Rated PG 13

Safe

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:30
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Jason Statham, Catherine Chan
Crime • Rated R

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'What to Expect..' stars in London for UK premiere

LONDON (AP)—The stars of the romantic comedy "What to Expect When You're Expecting" had plenty of praise for each other—and a warning about making out on the hood of a car—during the film's British premiere in London on Tuesday.

Cameron Diaz, Chace Crawford and Matthew Morrison, Anna Kendrick and Rodrigo Santoro were among the actors who walked the red carpet at the British Film Institute's IMAX theater.

The film—inspired by the bestselling book by Heidi Murkoff, and also featuring Jennifer Lopez, Dennis Quaid, Cheryl Cole and Chris Rock—looks at love through the eyes of five interconnected couples as they experience pregnancy and childbirth.

Kendrick and Crawford were one of the couples with some steamy moments in the film. But the reality wasn't quite that great, Kendrick said.

"The scene where we kind of make out on the hood of a car, it all looks pretty sexy and cool and fun, but I would not recommend trying to do that," she said. "It is uncomfortable. My legs were covered in bruises the next day. So I hope that it looks really nice, but it was actually quite a painful experience."

Director Kirk Jones gave high marks to Diaz, saying she was "phenomenal" in the scene where she gave birth.

AP

British singer Cheryl Cole, left, and U.S. actress Cameron Diaz pose for photographers as they arrive for the European premiere of the movie 'What to Expect When You're Expecting' at a cinema in London, Tuesday, May 22, 2012.

"The concern as the director is always that you turn up on set, and an actress doesn't want to give her all because she'll be thinking, 'I don't want to look too sweaty, I don't want to look too red, you know, I don't want to really go for this,'" he said. "But she went for it, in a big way, yeah."

Diaz's onscreen partner Matthew Morrison also praised her, this time for her dancing skills.

"There's this one part where she wraps her legs around me, and I have to spin her around, and I said, 'Hold me tight because I don't want to, like, drop you and it's gonna help with me turning you around,'" he said. "And she squeezed me so hard I couldn't even breathe. It was, like, 'Damn it, let go, let go.' She's so strong, she's so strong."

Singer and former "X Factor" judge Cole takes on her first acting role in the movie as a judge in a celebrity dance-off contest.

Diaz gave her a thumbs-up, saying, "She played it beautifully, she was fun and entertaining and she provided a great energy for the set."

"What to Expect When You're Expecting" open in the U.K. on Friday.

Marvel Comics plans wedding for gay hero Northstar

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Wedding bells will ring this summer for Marvel Comics' first openly gay hero, super speedster Northstar, and his longtime boyfriend.

The New York-based publisher said Tuesday that Canadian character Jean-Paul Beaubier will marry his beau, Kyle Jinadu, in the pages of "Astonishing X-Men" No. 51. That's due out June 20.

Northstar revealed he was gay in the pages of "Alpha Flight" No. 106 in 1992, one of Marvel Entertainment's first characters to do so.

Ten years later, in 2002, gay characters Apollo and the Midnighter were married in the pages of "The Authority" published by DC's Wildstorm imprint.

Since then, numerous comic book heroes and villains have been written as gay, lesbian or transgender—from DC Comics' Kate Kane, aka Batwoman, to Hulkling and Wiccan in the pages of "Young Avengers."

Comics, as a medium, have embraced gay, lesbian and transgender characters, including the introduction of Kevin Keller by Archie Comics. Comic strips have done likewise.

This month, cartoonist Tom Batiuk is writing about a gay couple trying to attend their high school prom in "Funky Winkerbean," a move that has divided the fictional community.

"As I sit in on the classes at my old high school, I see how the younger generation's attitude toward gays is more open and accepting than that of their predecessors," Batiuk said.

For Marvel, the upcoming wedding is a way to further embed same-sex issues in its contemporary universe.

"The Marvel Universe has always reflected the world outside your window, so we strive to make sure our characters, relationships and stories are grounded in that reality," said Axel Alonso, Marvel's editor-in-chief.

Author Marjorie Liu, who is writing "Astonishing X-Men," said the decision to have the pair marry was appropriate.

"As a writer—and a romance novelist, no less—I've always found it a bit odd when characters in comic books remain in relationship limbo for years at a time," she said.

"Certainly, that happens in real life—some relationships just never grow—but the wonderful thing about stories is that they tend to move readers and characters forward," Liu said, adding that Northstar pops the question in issue No. 50, which is due out on Wednesday.

"And, in this case, it was time to do the same to Northstar and Kyle, who have one of those rare comic book romances that actually works."

Eugene Polley, inventor of TV remote, dies at 96

CHICAGO (AP)—Couch potatoes everywhere can pause and thank Eugene Polley for hours of feet-up channel surfing. His invention, the first wireless TV remote, began as a luxury, but with the introduction of hundreds of channels and viewing technologies it has become a necessity.

Polley

Just ask anyone who's lost a remote.

Polley died of natural causes Sunday at a suburban Chicago hospital, said Zenith Electronics spokesman John Taylor. The former Zenith engineer was 96.

In 1955, if you wanted to switch TV channels from "Arthur Godfrey" to "Father Knows Best," you got up from your chair, walked across the room and turned a knob. Clunk. Clunk. Clunk.

Or you could buy a new Zenith television with Flash-Matic tuning. The TV came with a green ray gun-shaped contraption with a red trigger. The advertising promised "TV miracles." The "flash tuner" was "Absolutely harmless to humans!" Most intriguing of all: "You can even shut off annoying commercials while the picture remains on the screen."

Polley was proud of his invention even late in life, Taylor said. He showed visitors at his assisted-living apartment his original Flash-Matic and how it had evolved into the technology of today. "He was a proud owner of a flat-screen TV and modern remote," Taylor said. "He always kept his original remote control with him."

Polley's Flash-Matic pointed a beam of light at photo cells in the corners of the television screen. Each corner activated a different function, turning the picture and sound off and on, and changing the channels.

Chicago native Polley and fellow Zenith engineer Robert Adler were honored in 1997 with an Emmy for their work in pioneering TV remotes. In 2009, he received the Masaru Ibuka Consumer Electronics Award from the Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers.

Beyond keeping TV viewers pinned to their chairs, Polley's invention unchained technology from mechanical knobs and levers, opening vast possibilities, said Richard Doherty, CEO of suburban New York-based technology assessment and market research company Envisioneering.

"Without his idea you might not have gotten to the Internet," Doherty said. "It allowed you to go beyond the physical dial. It set the pace for dozens for follow-on inventions that go beyond the physical."

Football star Donald Driver is new 'Dancing' champ

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He already has a Super Bowl ring, and now football star Donald Driver can add the "Dancing With the Stars" mirrorball trophy to his awards collection.

The Green Bay Packers receiver won the ABC dance show Tuesday after wowing audiences and judges with his kickin' country-themed freestyle routine. He and partner Peta Murgatroyd hoisted the glittery prize above their heads after being named the new "Dancing" champs.

Streamers and confetti rained down from the ceiling, filling the ballroom as they celebrated. Driver's wife and children joined him on the dance floor.

With just one point separating the three finalists, it was up to the viewers to pick the winner.

He and his fellow finalists, Welsh singer Katherine Jenkins and Cuban actor William Levy, each earned perfect scores for their last performances Tuesday. Jenkins came into the final contest with a perfect 60 points; Driver and Levy each had 59.

Judges' scores combined with viewer votes determined the result.

Contestants eliminated throughout the show's 10-week season reunited for the two-hour finale. Martina Navratilova, Gavin DeGraw, Jack Wagner, Jaleel White, Sherri Shepherd, Melissa Gilbert, Roshon Fegan, Maria Menounos and Gladys Knight all donned costumes Tuesday for one last dance.

Knight did double performance duty, also singing "The Way We Were." Kelly Clarkson also performed on the show.

The next round of "Dancing With the Stars" will feature contestants from past seasons.

AP

This Monday, May 14, 2012 photo shows Donald Drive, right, and his partner Peta Murgatroyd performing on the celebrity dance competition series "Dancing with the Stars," in Los Angeles.

Comanche tribe makes Johnny Depp honorary member

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Johnny Depp has been made an honorary member of the Comanche tribe.

Depp is in New Mexico, shooting the film adaptation of "The Lone Ranger." He plays "Ranger" sidekick Tonto in the film.

Comanche Nation tribal member LaDonna Harris said Tuesday that the tribal chairman presented Depp with a proclamation at her Albuquerque home May 16. She said the Comanche adoption tradition means she now considers Depp her son.

Harris said Depp seemed humbled.

His spokeswoman, Jayne Ngo, confirmed the actor participated in a ceremony, but she declined to provide details.

Harris said she had read in interviews that Depp identified himself as being part Native American, so she thought it would be fun to adopt him—a tradition she says is common in Comanche culture. She ran the idea past her adult children, and they agreed.

A ball for one? Lady Gaga unsure on Indonesia show

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Lady Gaga is as confused as anyone about whether she'll be allowed to perform in Indonesia.

Islamic hard-liners have threatened violence, saying her sexy clothes and provocative dance moves could corrupt youth. Police initially denied a permit for the "Born This Way Ball" but are now hinting the concert could ahead if the pop diva toned down the show.

She tweeted Tuesday:

"The Jakarta situation is 2-fold: Indonesian authorities demand I censor the show & religious extremist separately, are threatening violence. If the show does go on as scheduled, I will perform the BTWBall alone."

What she meant wasn't clear, and her promoters have not commented.

Indonesia, a predominantly Muslim nation of 240 million people, was supposed to be the biggest show on Lady Gaga's Asian tour.

Model Naomi Campbell in Holy Land for birthday

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP)—Supermodel Naomi Campbell celebrated her 42nd birthday on Tuesday with a trip to the birthplace of Jesus, wishing for "good vibrations, not destruction" in the troubled Middle East.

Campbell

Campbell, wearing a white shirt and black sunglasses, was flanked by Palestinian guards and her own private security detail as she toured the biblical town of Bethlehem. She lit candles in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, said Palestinian security officials. The church is built on the spot where Christians believe Jesus was born. The West Bank town is controlled by the Palestinian Authority. Israel has built a high concrete wall around most of the town to keep Palestinian militants, including suicide bombers, out of nearby Jerusalem.

"As much traveling as I've done, I've never come here," Campbell told a Palestinian television station. The supermodel said she hoped for peace. "I'm happy to be here. Weapons and war, greed and oil ... I hope it all stops. I care about health, about good vibrations, not destruction," she told the station.

Some of Campbell's security guards wore black-and-white checkered Palestinian scarves, resembling tourists.

Later, Campbell celebrated her birthday at the nearby Casa Nova Palace Restaurant. Her group ate a traditional Palestinian meal of lamb and rice inside the restaurant, said an employee.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Kanye leads in BET nods, Samuel Jackson to host

NEW YORK (AP)—It's a family affair at the upcoming BET Awards: Kanye West has the most nominations with seven, while his mentor, Jay-Z, earned five, and Jay-Z's wife, Beyoncé, received six. Jay-Z and West collaborated last year on the album "Watch the Throne." Their songs—"In Paris" and "Otis"—are up for video of the year. Beyoncé has two nominations in that category with "Love on Top" and "Countdown." The fifth nominee is Usher's "Climax." The nominations were announced Tuesday in New York. Samuel L. Jackson will host the July 1 award show, which will be held at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. Chris Brown and Nicki Minaj will perform. Other multiple nominees include Brown, Lil Wayne, Drake and J. Cole. Maze featuring Frankie Beverly will receive a lifetime achievement award.

R&B singer Usher claims ex-wife spit at girlfriend

ATLANTA (AP)—R&B singer Usher Raymond is locked in a legal battle with his ex-wife arising from a custody fight over their two sons. The 33-year-old testified in court on Tuesday that Tameka Foster Raymond spit at and tried to fight his girlfriend during one visit. He alleged that his ex-wife hit him during the dispute, but that he didn't press charges because "I didn't want the boys to know that their father put their mother in jail." Tameka Raymond's attorney claims that Usher provoked her client and that his account is exaggerated. The two were married in 2007 and divorced two years later. Tameka Raymond has since fought for full custody of their two sons while Usher Raymond wants more visitation rights.

Carol Burnett writing book about late daughter

NEW YORK (AP)—Carol Burnett's next book will likely inspire tears along with laughter. The beloved actress and comedienne has an agreement with Simon & Schuster for a memoir about her daughter, Carrie Hamilton, who died of cancer in 2002 at age 38. The publisher announced Tuesday that Burnett's book, `Carrie and Me," is expected in April 2013. The memoir will be a "funny and moving" story of Burnett's relationship with her daughter, an actress and writer who appeared on stage in the musical "Rent" and on such television shows as "Touched by an Angel" and "The X-Files." Carol Burnett's previous books include "This Time Together" and "One More Time."

Aunt is left home alone due to poor holiday plans

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My sister "Ruth" and I spent most holidays dining out together after our families grew up and left home. Ruth died last year and her daughter "Lara" began inviting me for holidays "so I wouldn't be alone." I have tried to decline, but she persists. She insists that I should be with her instead of with friends, although her plans are always tentative and often change at the last minute.

Last Christmas she invited me to a community holiday dinner at 2 p.m. with her friends. At the last minute she called to say we'd be dining at her house in the evening instead, which meant I spent the entire day alone doing nothing. The dinner was grim because they were arguing.

At Easter, Lara called saying plans were "up in the air." At noon on Easter day, she called to say her husband's sister was visiting and they planned to hike in the state park and have a picnic—something that I physically cannot do. She said they planned to have dinner for me "sometime soon." So, once again, I spent the holiday alone.

Should I call Lara and tell her exactly how I feel, or just write a script for the next time she calls?

HAD IT IN THE SOUTHWEST

DEAR HAD IT: If you'd prefer to spend the holidays with friends instead of being reminded of sad memories and feeling obligated, you should decline Lara's future invitations. If your niece pressures you, explain that you have already made plans with friends.

Although her heart may be in the right place, from your description of your niece's social skills, they leave much to be desired. Do not allow her to make you feel guilty and change your mind. Your feelings are valid.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 45-year-old single male with a job I enjoy. Last June, a cousin who is close to my age married for the second time. He married a girl 20 years younger whom he had known less than six months.

Although I was unable to attend the wedding, I sent them a nice card with a generous cash gift. I never received a thank-you note for it and although I was offended, I overlooked their rudeness.

Six weeks later, my cousin's new bride called my place of employment and left an "emergency" message to phone her. (She left a second one with a neighbor of mine.) Very worried and not knowing what to expect, I called her immediately.

The "emergency" turned out to be a request for a loan of $500. I was angry but tried not to show it. After thinking about it, I agreed to the loan, although my cousin's wife had hinted that I should give them a larger amount. We agreed on a repayment plan.

I had misgivings about helping them, but somehow my aunt—my cousin's mother—became involved. She kept insisting I lend them the money. (They were living with her at the time.)

It has been more than eight months and they have made no effort to pay me back. To make matters worse, they avoid me. My aunt acts as though it's all right for them to treat me this way. I am angry, hurt and feel my trust has been betrayed. What do you think I should do now?

USED IN MISSOURI

DEAR USED: I think you should write off the loan and thank your lucky stars that you weren't conned into giving this deadbeat couple more money. If you are asked for more—which isn't out of the realm of possibility—you can now say, "No, because you didn't repay the first loan I gave you." Think about it. You may have gotten off cheap.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR YOUR STORY YET?
NO. I'M WAITING FOR INSPIRATION.
YOU CAN'T JUST TURN ON CREATIVITY LIKE A FAUCET. YOU HAVE TO BE IN THE RIGHT MOOD.
WHAT MOOD IS THAT?
LAST-MINUTE PANIC.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

THIS CEREAL IS A GOOD SOURCE OF FIBER
FIBER?
SO THIS IS WHERE MISSING SOCKS GO
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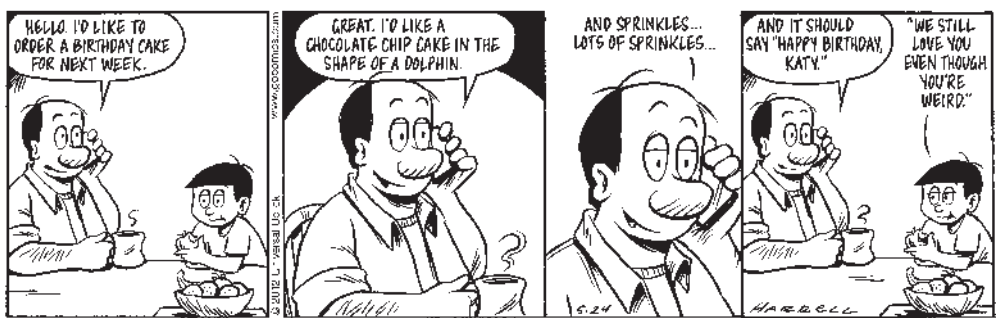
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HELLO. I'D LIKE TO ORDER A BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR NEXT WEEK.
GREAT. I'D LIKE A CHOCOLATE CHIP CAKE IN THE SHAPE OF A DOLPHIN.
AND SPRINKLES... LOTS OF SPRINKLES...
AND IT SHOULD SAY "HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KATY."
"WE STILL LOVE YOU EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE WEIRD."
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

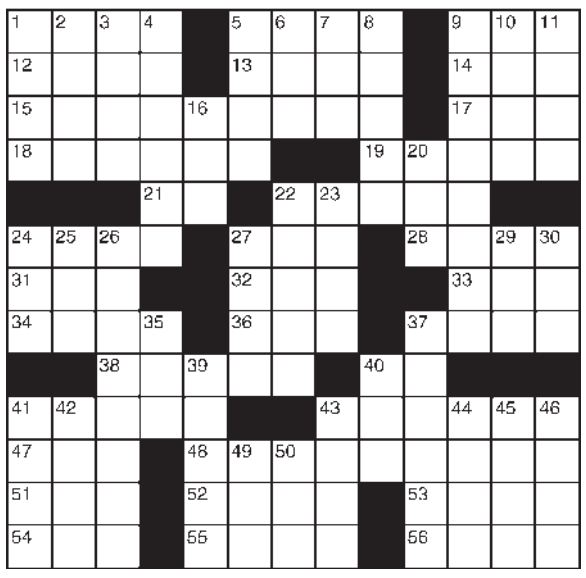
ACROSS
1 "Cheers" supply
5 Vicinity
9 Pitch
12 Lotion additive
13 Stead
14 Rd.
15 Karaoke event
17 Solidify
18 Without difficulty
19 Frost-covered
21 Yours truly
22 Glorify
24 Advantage
27 Round Table address
28 Georgetown athlete
31 Commit perjury
32 Khan title
33 Without delay
34 Crumbly cheese
36 Bashful
37 Malaria symptom
38 Preferred invitees
40 What @ symbolizes
41 European fashion city
43 Fear
47 Fuss
48 Make progress
51 X rating?
52 Troop group
53 Crazy
54 Crone
55 Cincinnati squad
56 Unforeseen problem

DOWN
1 Foundation
2 Director Kazan
3 Billions of years
4 Government in power
5 Partner in crime
6 Carnival city
7 Still, in verse
8 Zero
9 Join the group
10 State with conviction
11 Hinge (on)
16 1-Across kin
20 "—-la-la!"
22 Square dance group
23 MRI forerunner
24 Sprite
25 Conk out
26 Be congenial
27 Lip
29 Second person
30 Shock and —
35 Carte lead-in
37 Coral constructs
39 Bring upon oneself
40 "Eureka!"
41 Trig, e.g.
42 Brainstorm
43 Cats and dogs, usually
44 Benefit
45 Erstwhile Peruvian
46 Enthusiastic
49 Dollar bill
50 Central

Solution time: 25 mins.

G	I	N	S	■	A	P	T	■	A	B	F	I
O	R	E	O	■	C	A	R	■	T	A	X	I
B	A	R	N	A	C	L	E	■	T	R	A	M
I	N	D	I	G	O	■	S	T	I	G	M	A
■	■	■	C	R	U	■	S	E	R	A	■	■
A	L	B	■	A	N	T	■	D	E	I	C	E
H	E	A	P	■	I	E	E	■	S	N	O	B
M	O	R	F	S	■	A	N	C	■	S	O	R
■	■	B	R	A	N	■	G	A	S	■	■	■
F	I	A	S	C	O	■	O	N	W	A	R	D
I	D	D	O	■	B	A	R	T	C	R	L	D
N	E	O	N	■	L	U	G	■	D	I	V	A
S	A	S	S	■	E	K	E	■	E	A	S	Y

Yesterday's answer 5-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mark Ballas, 26; Will Sasso, 37; John C. Reilly, 47; Bob Dylan, 71.

Happy Birthday: You can make a difference, but first you have to narrow down exactly where you want to invest your time, effort and energy. You can take a unique approach to whatever you do as long as you don't let your overhead get out of hand. Stick to your budget and focus on getting the most for the least. Your numbers are 6, 13, 23, 27, 35, 38, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Surprises will develop when dealing with professional or personal contacts. Don't speculate or take anything for granted. Acknowledge the efforts of others and compromise, if possible. Rely on experience when given a difficult choice. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Attending an industry event, trade show or convention will connect you with people who can complement what you are trying to accomplish. A proposition will be worth looking into, but make sure you are clear regarding the details. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stop procrastinating and start doing. Expand your interests or turn a skill into a profitable venture. Finding a way to offer what you enjoy doing most will lead to greater satisfaction and happiness. Think outside the box. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Visit a friend or go somewhere you've never been before. Embrace new experiences and people who can offer you a different perspective on your situation. Negativity is the enemy and will hold you back when opportunity comes along. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Participation will lead to new acquaintances and opportunities. An idea you have can turn into a moneymaker, but before you dole out your own cash, consider alternative ways to expand your plans without jeopardizing your bankbook. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Listen carefully. Someone who is putting you down will be drawing on false information. Look into the facts and get your figures straight if there is money involved, then respond to what's being done or said. Keep your distance. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Show your competitive side and you will win whatever challenge you face. Your insight, confidence and determination will enable you to make the right moves. Update your image or make self-improvements. Love, travel and communication are highlighted. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take note of what everyone is up to, and you will handle each situation you face like a pro. Don't be afraid to use a little force or to put pressure on someone if required. Size up what's possible and what's not. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Spice things up a bit. Love and romance are highlighted, but so are anger and emotional distress. Make love, not war, and you will have a great day. Sharing your thoughts is fine, but don't push your beliefs on others. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't hem and haw; be precise, and don't take no for an answer. If there is something you really want, do whatever it takes to follow through and make it happen. Being industrious will impress someone who can offer support. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Follow through with your creative ideas and don't be afraid to try new things. As long as you don't overdo it in any way, you will not come up against opposition. Moderation will help you reach your destination. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Take one step at a time. Focus on home, family and the changes that will best suit your needs. Sizing down or lowering your stress is a good place to begin. Plan your strategy carefully and you will avoid anyone opposing you. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have pizzazz and confidence. You strive to do your own thing.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6		7	9		8	1		2
	4						7	
		2				8		
7			3		4			6
9			8		2			5
		1				3		
	5						2	
4		9	2		1	7		8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	3	9	7	5	2	1	4	6
5	7	4	8	6	1	2	9	3
6	1	2	4	3	9	5	8	7
3	8	1	5	9	4	6	7	2
9	2	5	6	8	7	4	3	1
4	6	7	1	2	3	9	5	8
7	4	3	2	1	5	8	6	9
1	9	6	3	4	8	7	2	5
2	5	8	9	7	6	3	1	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FREDDY CURCI **Solution: 13 letters**

R	L	A	C	O	V	D	I	A	M	O	N	D	S	C
L	U	G	U	I	T	A	R	L	E	C	I	O	V	R
L	A	O	D	A	O	R	G	I	N	O	W	Y	I	A
R	O	E	T	L	A	U	R	A	H	S	D	G	I	Z
E	O	V	R	Ⓢ	Ⓞ	Ⓤ	Ⓛ	S	U	D	S	N	H	Y
T	W	E	E	N	H	N	T	O	A	R	R	I	C	D
I	O	T	C	O	I	E	R	D	M	O	E	S	R	A
R	N	R	N	T	V	E	R	G	F	W	M	E	A	Y
W	D	A	O	E	G	U	N	I	W	L	A	O	M	L
N	N	E	C	N	O	I	L	I	F	I	E	R	E	I
E	A	H	A	Y	T	A	T	H	Y	F	R	E	D	M
D	N	D	S	I	C	O	H	O	M	E	D	H	O	A
R	E	O	A	C	C	E	B	E	R	E	W	O	P	F
A	H	W	M	A	C	D	A	D	D	Y	A	L	P	U
W	T	C	E	F	R	E	P	Y	L	L	A	N	I	F

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Alias, California, Concert, Crazy Day, Dangerous, DeMarchi, Diamonds, Dreamers, Family, Finally, Gino, Guitar, Heart, Heroes, Home, Laura, Life, Love, Mac Daddy, Note, Perfect, Play, Power, Real, Rebecca, Road, Sheriff, Sing, Soul, Steve, Then and Now, Toronto, Tour, Video, Vocal, Voice, Waiting, Warden, Who's Your Daddy, Words, Writer, Zion

Yesterday's Answer: Superstition

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Parting of the ways

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Tour Guide: $5.05/hr, tips and commission. High school diploma or higher is required. Korean speaking and writing fluency is required. Email resume to pkt@hanmisaipan.com. Civil Travel Service Co., Ltd.

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(1) Tour Guide: $5.05/hr, tips and commission. High school diploma or higher is required. Korean speaking and writing fluency is required. Applicants with work experience in the Saipan tourism industry are preferred. Email resume to knl@hanmisaipan.com. K.N.L. Co., Ltd. dba Happy Island Tour

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Pigs for sale, big white male, 2 females, Weiner pigs, quality stock. Breed or roast call 322-0268

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

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- Strong technology aptitude required, proficient in; Excel Spreadsheets, QuickBooks accounting software, Microsoft Outlook
- Work all shifts and flexible schedule including weekends and holidays
- At least 4-5 years customer service related working experience required
- Salary $5.50 to $6.00/Hourly

Bartender/Server (3)
- High School graduate
- Great customer service skills
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Interested applicants can apply in person or email their resumes at osidebarngrill@yahoo.com.

L&T Group of Companies is inviting qualified applicants to apply for the following position:

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High school diploma or equivalent with experience in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained at and submitted to L & T Group of Companies office at the 2nd floor of JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00PM, Friday, May 25, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

L & T Group of Companies is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

HAFADAI BEACH HOTEL

P.O. BOX 500338 SAIPAN, MP 96950-0338 | TEL: (670) 234-6495 to 98 FAX: (670) 237-2529

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: Supervisor, Front Desk

Duties and Responsibilities: To supervise front office employees of hotel and resolve problems arising from guests complaints; Make reservation and room assignment, activities and unusual request and inquires; assign duties and shift to employees; observe performances to ensure adherence to hotel policies and established operating procedures; confers and cooperate with other department heads to ensure coordination of hotel activities; may patrol public rooms; investigate disturbances and warns troublemaker; may register customer and issue keys and other related duties as assigned. Must speak, read and write Chinese to address the Chinese customers concerns and inquires. Must also read, write and speak English.

For more information you may contact Mr. Juan I Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495 ext. 5840/2.
Employment application forms are available at Hafadai Beach Hotel, Human Resources Department.

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PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN — **BOUTIKI**

We are currently seeking positive, outgoing individuals for the position of:

TEAM LEADER

Applicants must have a minimum of 1 year work experience in retail sales, cash handling and using sales systems. Must be computer literate and have excellent communication skills (oral and written) as well as excellent customer service skills. Korean, Japanese or Russian language skills a plus, but not required. Must be able to work on weekends and holidays.

PIC Employment Applications are available at the Security Desk at the south end of the hotel. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Application deadline is **5pm on May 25, 2012.**

Pacific Islands Club Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN — **BOUTIKI**

We are currently seeking positive, outgoing individuals for the position of:

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Applicants must have a minimum of 2 years work experience in retail sales, cash handling and using sales systems and 1 year of supervisory experience. Must be computer literate and have excellent communication skills (oral and written) as well as excellent customer service skills. Korean, Japanese or Russian language skills a plus, but not required. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

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Century Hotel

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COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 03-2012

Opening date: May 24, 2012 **Closing date: June 7, 2012**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

Position: (1) Rota Ports Manager

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. For Rota vacancy, applications may be picked up at the CPA's Administration Office of the Rota International Airport; and for Tinian's vacancy, applications may be picked up at CPA's Administration Office of the Tinian International Airport; or it may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than ***4:30p.m., June 7, 2012.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. For more information, please contact Ms. Addy C. Manahane by email at acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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James, Wade lead Heat to win over Pacers, 115-83

MIAMI (AP)—Suddenly, the road back to the Eastern Conference finals no longer looks daunting for Miami.

Not after the Heat left the Pacers beat up and banged up.

LeBron James scored 30 points, Dwyane Wade added 28, and the Heat moved a win away from the NBA's final four with a 115-83 victory over the hurting Pacers on Tuesday night, a game where three flagrant fouls added more chapters to an already-physical series and Indiana watched starting forwards Danny Granger and David West leave with injuries.

"This is our challenge right now, to leave it behind us," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "A lot of good things tonight, but we have to focus on the next one."

That would be Game 6 in Indiana on Thursday night. The Heat lead the best-of-seven East semifinals 3-2.

James added 10 rebounds and eight assists. Shane Battier scored 13 points, Mario Chalmers had eight points and 11 rebounds, and Udonis Haslem finished with 10 points for Miami, which never trailed, held a 22-2 edge in fast-break points and shot a franchise playoff-record 61 percent—best of any team in the playoffs this season.

Paul George scored 11 points for Indiana, with Granger and West adding 10 points apiece. Granger left with a sprained left ankle in the third quarter and departed the arena in a walking boot, while West departed with what the Pacers called a left knee sprain at the end of that period—something that West thought was born of a cheap shot.

Replays showed Shane Battier boxed out West on the play where he fell backward, but it did not appear any Heat player hit West below the waist.

It was an 11-point game when Granger departed early in the third quarter, and the Heat outscored the Pacers by 21 the rest of the way.

"We learned early in this series, you don't get two wins for a blowout," Pacers coach Frank Vogel said.

A series marked by ugly moments had perhaps its worst with 19.4 seconds remaining when Miami reserve center Dexter Pittman went across the lane to send a forearm into the chin area of Indiana's Lance Stephenson—who was caught on camera making a choke sign toward James during the Pacers' Game 3 win, drawing the ire of the Miami locker room.

Pittman was caught on camera winking after the foul.

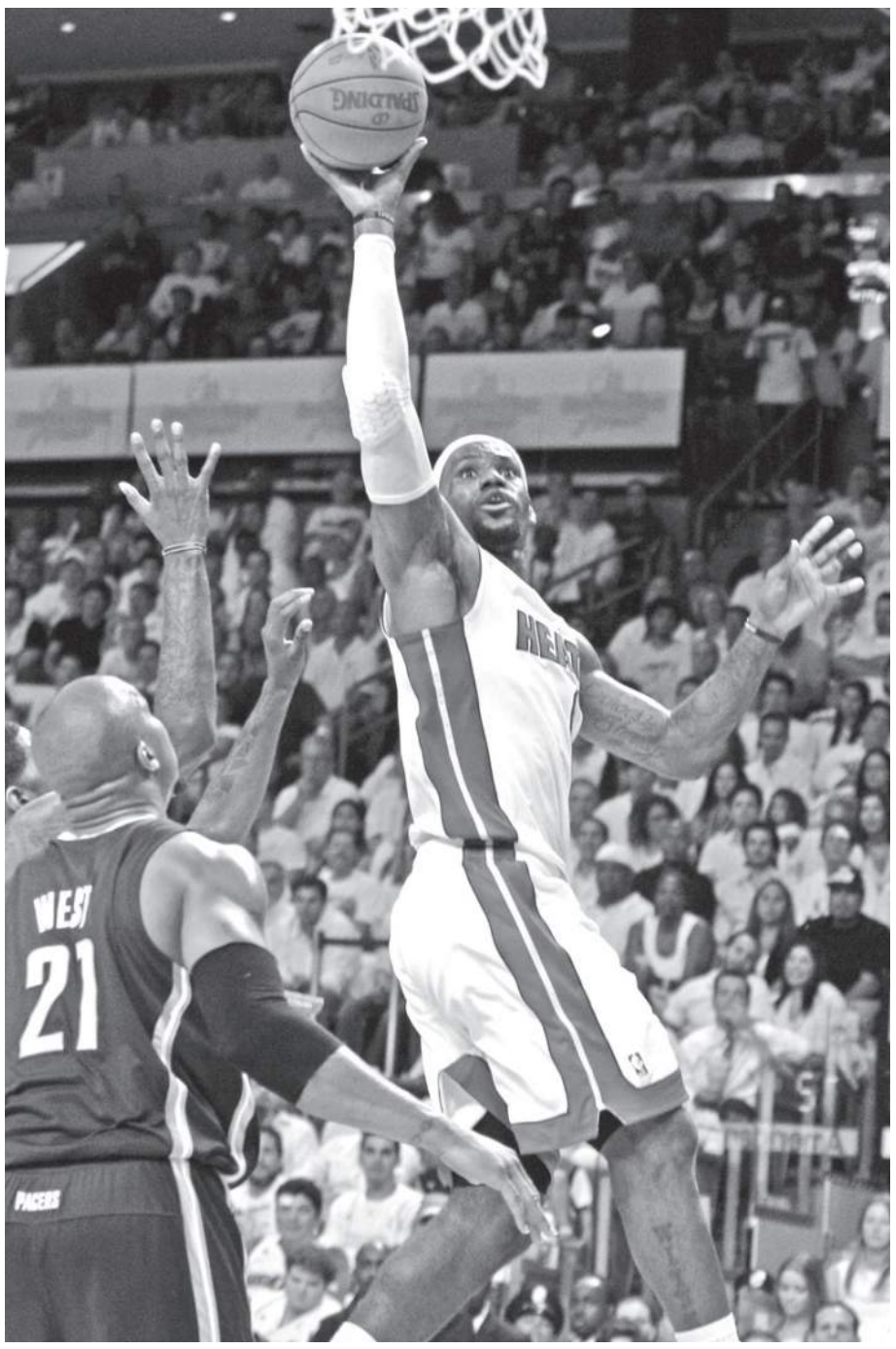
"I don't know if that was retaliation. ... I'm sure the NBA will and do what they have to do," Granger said, adding that Stephenson was getting X-rays for a possible collarbone problem. Physicians were examining Stephenson after the game.

Miami, which had gotten into quick deficits in each of the first four games, was the team that started hot in Game 5, running out to a 19-8 lead on the strength of three 3-pointers from Battier—who had been 2 for 19 from the field in the first four games of the series. Battier left his mark in many ways, even stopping a 3-on-1 Indiana break to set up a score by Wade at the other end.

But much like the Heat did in Game 4 when Indiana threatened to turn things into an early runaway, the Pacers settled down in a hurry.

The Pacers made Wade see blood early on, a couple of early flagrant fouls reminding everyone that these teams don't seem to like each other much.

Tyler Hansbrough struck first, hitting Wade on a play where the 2006 NBA finals MVP wound up with a cut over his right eye, similar to what Haslem received at Indiana in Game 4. So Haslem retaliated against Hansbrough not long afterward, earning a flagrant-1 foul that left the Pacers saying it should merit a flagrant-2 and automatic ejection.



AP

Miami Heat's LeBron James, right, shoots as Indiana Pacers' David West (21) watches during the second half of Game 5 of an NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinal playoff series, in Miami on Tuesday, May 22, 2012.

"Referee's call," Vogel said.

Said Haslem: "I've seen worse in this league in nine years. Nobody wants to give an inch and everybody's going hard."

Even after facing the big deficit, Indiana even had two shots to tie or take the lead late in the first half, the second of those a 3-point try from Granger with 3:03 remaining.

It didn't go down. He did.

Granger landed on James' foot after the shot, spraining his left ankle and leaving the game. The Heat outscored Indiana 8-2 the rest of the half, with James—who had been guarded by Granger for much of the series—scoring seven of them.

He opened the burst with a 3-pointer, stole the ball from West and dunked for a seven-point lead with 26 seconds left, then capped the half by coming up with a defensive rebound, passing to Wade, getting the ball back just before the halftime horn sounded and laying it in to send Miami into the break with a 49-40 edge.

"They played at their tempo," West said. "We weren't able to get enough stops. You can't allow a team to shoot 60, 60-plus, whatever from the field."

Granger tried to play in the second half, lasting about 3 minutes before realizing his ankle wasn't going to let him continue. X-rays were negative, which was about the only piece of good news for Indiana.

By then, Indiana was ailing, and Miami was rolling.

James leaned back to catch a slightly wayward pass from Chalmers near the Miami bench, then firing it in one motion to Wade for an easy score as the reigning MVP toppled atop Heat assistant coach Ron Rothstein. Mike Miller even made the crowd roar for defending Leandro Barbosa and forcing a missed 3-pointer late in the quarter—the highlight there being Miller played for about a minute while missing one sneaker.

When Granger left, it was 56-45. By the end of the quarter, Miami's lead was 76-57, and the Pacers were down another starting forward as well. West left at the end of the period and also headed to the locker room, diagnosed shortly afterward with a sprained left knee.

"I'm fine," West said, adding that he thinks Granger could be ready to play Thursday. Granger wasn't so sure, though added that his foot would "have to fall off" for him to miss the game.

So now the Heat are one win from the East finals, after a series filled with twists and turns.

There was Vogel's accusation before the series started that the Heat were floppers, Chris Bosh's lower abdominal strain that sidelined him midway through Game 1, James and Wade missing key chances late in the Game 2 loss, Stephenson's gesture toward James and the 40-point, 18-rebound, nine-assist effort from James in Game 4.

And now a blowout—followed by a chance for a Heat close out on Thursday.

"When we defend and we rebound, we're a very good team," James said.

Lakers will debate overhaul after premature playoff exit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant and Pau Gasol spent the final minutes of the Los Angeles Lakers' final game arguing in Oklahoma City, disagreeing on the best way to run a pick-and-roll play.

It might have been the tandem's last few minutes together with a franchise that has little patience when even great players stop bringing home rings.

The Lakers were eliminated in the second round for the second straight year Monday night with a five-game loss to the Thunder. Although the Lakers had a solid season despite getting no real training camp to make the enormous switch from coaches Phil Jackson to Mike Brown, they weren't as good as the NBA's best.

That likely means changes for a franchise and a fan base that considers seasons ending before June to be abject failures.

"I'm really not used to it, so it's pretty odd for me," Bryant said of another early-by-Lakers-standards exit. "I'm not the most patient of people, and the organization is not extremely patient either. We want to win and win now, so I'm sure we'll figure it out. We always have. I'm sure we will again."

In Lakerland, it's easy to forget that the large majority of NBA franchises would be quite pleased by a 41-25 regular season, yet another Pacific Division title and a decent performance against the Thunder, clearly a top-four team. Many teams would be excited to retool a roster topped by Bryant, four-time All-Star big man Gasol, and emerging All-Star center Andrew Bynum, who frequently dominated during his best pro season.

But no franchise has the incredibly high standards of Bryant and the 16-time champion Lakers, who don't even acknowledge division titles that would be a significant achievement for other teams. A second-round playoff loss to a better team caused panic and widespread soul-searching Tuesday.

"Come hell or high water, we're going to be there again," said the 33-year-old Bryant, who has repeatedly stated he'll never leave the Lakers. "It's just something about the Lakers organization."

While general manager Mitch Kupchak contemplates his moves, most of the armchair GMs already agreed on Job No. 1: From the hours after the Lakers' final loss well into Tuesday morning, the No. 1 trending topic on Twitter in Los Angeles was "(hash)IdTradeGasolFor."

Gasol endured his toughest season since arriving in Los Angeles in early 2008, dealing with uncertainty and disappointment after the NBA rejected a trade that would have exiled him to Houston last December for Chris Paul. The genial Spanish 7-footer averaged a career-low 17.4 points while failing to find a consistent role in new coach Mike Brown's offense before struggling mightily in the playoffs.

Gasol, who will make more than $38 million over the next two seasons, handled the scuttled trade with his usual grace, but his fans and teammates weren't always so generous. Bryant called Bynum the Lakers' second scoring option during the season, but called out Gasol for not scoring more in the postseason, ripping into Gasol after Game 4 last Saturday.

"This team always has a huge desire and goal to win the championship, and when you fall short, it's frustrating," Gasol said. "It has been a crazy year and a lot to deal with. ... Unfortunately, we had tough losses and things didn't really go our way for the most part. You just have to regroup and digest this loss and this season, and learn from it and move on."

The 24-year-old Bynum was outstanding for most of his seventh NBA season, averaging 18.7 points, 11.8 rebounds and 1.93 blocked shots while staying healthy. But just when most Lakers fans are ready for Bynum to sign a maximum contract extension, he provided one more reminder of his questionable maturity and leadership potential when he didn't shake hands with the Thunder after managing just 10 points and four rebounds in Game 5.

Bynum has made numerous immature mistakes over the past year, which began with rampant rumors of his own departure for Orlando in various trades for Dwight Howard.

"Change has never bothered me. I'll play anywhere," Bynum said. "I'll come back a better player."

Yet Bynum also raised a key point: The Lakers were a work in progress all season long after Brown replaced 11-time NBA champion Jackson, requiring a dramatic adjustment in everything from a new offense to practice structure.

"I think we need a full training camp," Bynum said. "We never really got adjusted to the system. A lot of the times we came out and we weren't doing it together. I really think it's going to depend on being able to close out quarters and close out games. All throughout the season we would give up leads and not close quarters, and it hurt a lot."

Pena's big shot leads Rays over Jays

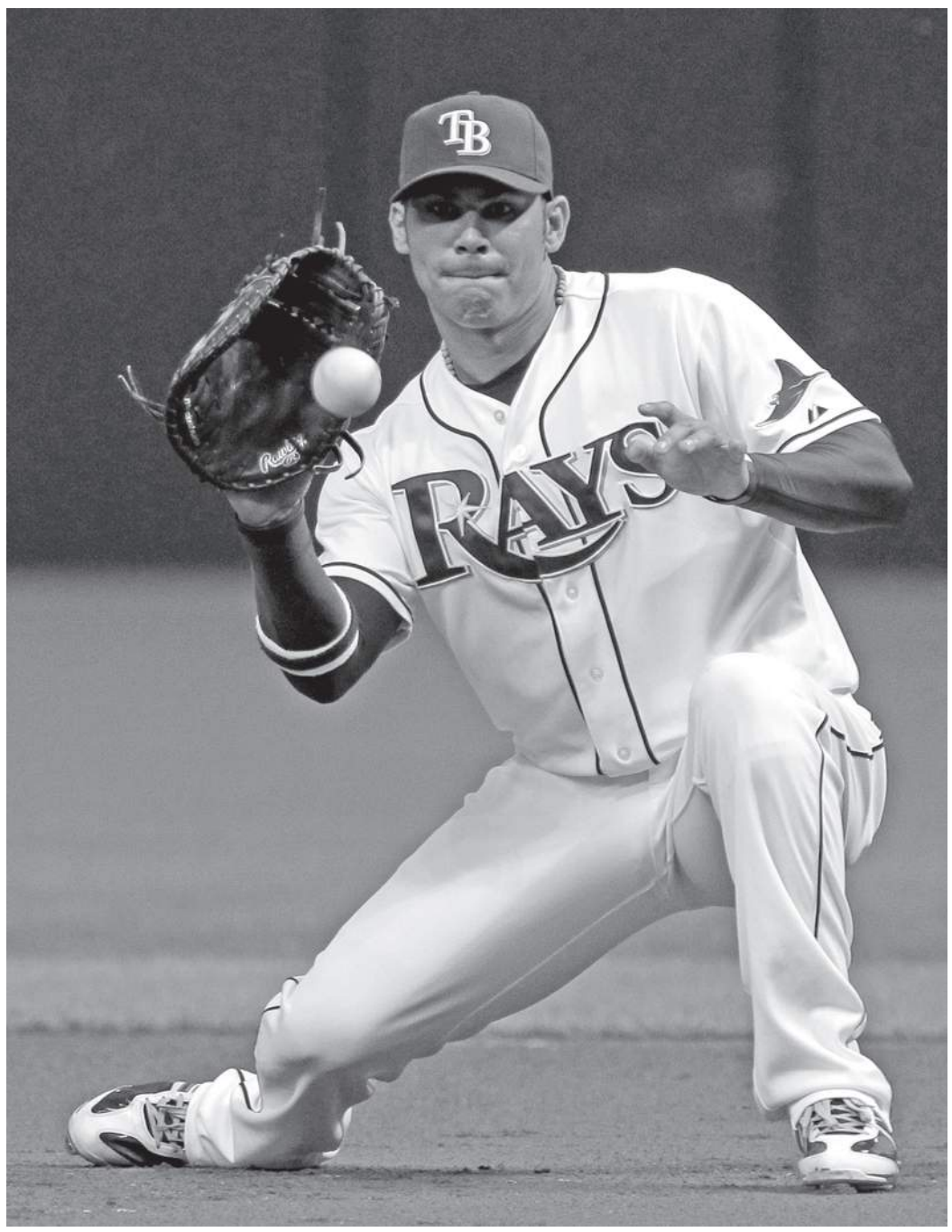
ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—Tampa Bay's Carlos Pena broke out of a form slump to hit a three-run homer during a five-run fourth inning which set up the Rays' 8-5 win over the Toronto Blue Jays on Tuesday.

Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon moved Pena up from the middle of the lineup to the leadoff spot in an attempt to help him turn his form around. Pena had been on an 0 for 18 slide, with a batting average this month of a paltry .116.

Pena's homer off Drew Hutchison (3-2) was estimated at 452 feet. He finished with two hits in five at-bats.

Drew Sutton had RBI double and Chris Gimenez hit a run-scoring grounder as the Rays took a 6-0 lead in the fourth. Gimenez also had a fifth-inning RBI single.

Rays reliever Wade Davis (1-0) gave up one run in two innings.



AP

Tampa Bay Rays first baseman Carlos Pena grabs a second-inning ground ball by Toronto Blue Jays' Colby Rasmus during a baseball game, Tuesday, May 22, 2012, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Orioles 4, Red Sox 1

In Baltimore, Brian Matusz allowed just two hits and struck out nine batters in 6 1-3 innings to steer Baltimore past Boston.

Matusz (4-4) won his third straight start. He walked only one and matched his career high in strikeouts.

Steve Tolleson hit a two-run homer in the second inning and Wilson Betemit also had a two-run shot in the eighth.

Boston fell back into sole possession of last place in the American League East.

Rangers 3, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Elvis Andrus lined a two-strike pitch for a two-run triple, making the difference in Texas' win over Seattle.

Andrus' triple in the third came when Seattle starter Hector Noesi (2-5) hung a breaking ball and Andrus drove it to the wall in left-center to give the Rangers the lead. Josh Hamilton followed by hitting an RBI double which landed on the chalk of the left-field line.

Hamilton also made two tremendous catches in center field. In the first inning he chased down Casper Wells' two-out bases-loaded drive and made the catch on the warning track. He then robbed Alex Liddi of at least a double with a leaping grab crashing into the wall leading off the third.

Rangers starter Matt Harrison (5-3) retired 20 of 24 batters between the second and seventh innings.

Indians 5, Tigers 3

In Cleveland, Chris Perez, greeted by a standing ovation from the time he left the bullpen, worked another scary ninth inning for his 14th save as Cleveland ended a 10-game losing streak to Detroit.

Perez had been critical of recent booing and called the Indians' major league-worst attendance "an embarrassment" for a first-place club. He allowed two runners on base in the ninth before a strikeout and a groundout ended it.

Perez hasn't blown a save since opening day.

Indians starter Ubaldo Jimenez (5-3) cautiously worked through the meat of Detroit's lineup and lasted six innings as the first-place Indians beat the AL Central favorites and Tigers starter Rick Porcello (4-3).

Angels 4, Athletics 0

In Oakland, C.J. Wilson and Ernesto Frieri combined on a one-hitter as Los Angeles closed down Oakland.

A day after losing its third consecutive one-run game, Los Angeles took a four-run lead after three innings and coasted the rest of the way to give Wilson (5-4) his first win in nearly three weeks.

Albert Pujols homered for the third time in seven days while Mark Trumbo and Howie Kendrick had RBI singles for the Angels.

A's starter Graham Godfrey (0-4) didn't last long in his return to the majors and remains winless this season.

Yankees 3, Royals 2

In New York, Robinson Cano homered to help New York edge Kansas City.

Derek Jeter delivered a bases-loaded single that tied the score in the fifth inning and New York rallied from an early two-run deficit to snap a three-game losing skid.

Yankees starter Phil Hughes (4-5) struck out seven in six innings and beat Royals starter Luke Hochevar (3-5) for the second time in 17 days.

Twins 9, White Sox 2

In Chicago, P.J. Walters tossed his first career complete game to guide Minnesota past Chicago.

In just his third start of the season, Walters (2-1) struck out eight.

The Twins jumped all over White Sox starter Gavin Floyd (3-5), scoring four runs in the second inning and five in the fourth. Justin Morneau's three-run homer ended the night for Floyd, who who is 0-8 against Minnesota in his past eight starts.

Josh Willingham and Alexi Casilla both drove in two runs for the Twins.

Reds 4, Braves 3

In Cincinnati, the Reds' Brandon Phillips drove in three runs with a pair of homers, leading the Reds to a victory over the Atlanta Braves.

Rookie shortstop Zack Cozart also homered off Brandon Beachy (5-2) as the Reds got the best of another high-powered game. The teams have combined for 10 homers in two games, seven of them by Cincinnati.

The Reds moved a season-high four games over .500 with their fourth straight win.

Cincinnati starter Mat Latos (3-2) gave up five hits in seven innings to win his third straight decision. Aroldis Chapman struck out two in the ninth for his second save, a day after his arrest for speeding.

Dodgers 8, Diamondbacks 7

In Phoenix, Ivan De Jesus hit a two-run double with two outs in the ninth to give Los Angeles the lead and Dee Gordon went airborne to turn a game-ending double play in the bottom of the inning as the Dodgers rallied past Arizona.

The Diamondbacks, who squandered a five-run lead going into the seventh, took a 7-6 lead in the bottom of the eighth on Lyle Overbay's homer off Josh Lindblom (2-0).

However J.J. Putz (0-3) couldn't close it for Arizona, allowing De Jesus to drive a double to center and make it 8-7.

With runners on first and third in the bottom of the ninth, Jason Kubel grounded to second and Gordon leapt over a late sliding Justin Upton to make a one-hop throw and complete the double play.

Nationals 5, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Jordan Zimmermann (3-4) gave up only one run in six innings to steer Washington past Philadelphia.

Ian Desmond and Rick Ankiel homered while Bryce Harper tripled, singled and drove in two runs for the Nationals, who beat the Phillies for the sixth straight time in Philadelphia—something that had never been done in the franchise's 43-year history.

Philadelphia lost its season-worst fourth straight.

Phillies starter Roy Halladay (4-4) continued his indifferent season, going six innings and allowing five runs.

Mets 3, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Lucas Duda smacked a go-ahead RBI-single in the top of the eighth inning to lift New York over Pittsburgh.

Mike Baxter, batting leadoff for the first time in his career, doubled off Juan Cruz (1-1) with one out in the eighth then came home two batters later when Duda's line drive glanced off the glove of the first baseman and rolled into right field.

Mets starter R.A. Dickey (6-1) struck out a career-high 11 in seven innings, giving up one run to move into a tie with a host of others for the most wins in the majors. Frank Francisco pitched the ninth for the save.

Cardinals 4, Padres 0

In St. Louis, Adam Wainwright pitched a shutout in St. Louis' win over San Diego.

It was his first shutout victory for two years and third in his career. Wainwright (3-5), who missed the 2011 season with elbow ligament replacement surgery, struck out nine and walked just one. He retired the first eight batters and allowed just one runner to reach third base.

Carlos Beltran had two hits and two RBIs and Matt Holliday added two hits and an RBI for the Cardinals.

Padres starter Edinson Volquez (2-4) gave up three runs in six innings. He is 0-3 at Busch Stadium with a 6.50 ERA.

Giants 6, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, Buster Posey homered off the scoreboard and had three RBIs as San Francisco downed Milwaukee.

The Giants won despite being outhit 11-5, due mostly to the fact the Brewers went 2-for-13 with runners in scoring position.

San Francisco starter Matt Cain (4-2) pitched out of trouble, allowing four runs without walking a batter and striking out eight in seven innings.

Milwaukee starter Shaun Marcum (2-3) gave up six runs in six innings. It was the first time this season he gave up more than three earned runs. The Brewers have lost six of seven.

Marlins 7, Rockies 6

In Miami, Ricky Nolasco gave up three runs in the first inning, then settled down to set a franchise record for career victories in Miami's win over Colorado.

Nolasco (5-2) notched his 69th career win, breaking a tie with Dontrelle Willis for the most ever by a Marlin.

He also did well with the bat, hitting a two-run double off Juan Nicasio (2-2) that put the Marlins ahead to stay.

The Rockies have lost six straight and are off to their worst start since 1995.

Astros 2, Cubs 1

In Houston, J.D. Martinez hit the go-ahead RBI single in the sixth inning, lifting Houston over Chicago.

The hit by Martinez was the first for Houston since the first inning, but Justin Maxwell and Carlos Lee both drew two-out walks before it to set up the score. Jose Altuve hit a solo homer for the Astros.

Houston starter J.A. Happ (4-3) allowed one run in six innings for the win. Closer Brett Myers pitched a perfect ninth for the save.

The loss extends Chicago's losing skid to a season-worst eight games.

Clemens trial resumes; gov't nears end of its case

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Roger Clemens perjury case resumes Wednesday after a day off, with prosecutors coming to the end of their case against the former baseball all-star.

Prosecutors have said they plan to wrap up their case by the end of this week - or the beginning of next week at the latest. Then the defense gets to make its case. Clemens lawyer Rusty Hardin has said he'll need seven or eight days for that.

U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton has told the parties if the trial isn't done by June 8, he might have to recess it for a month because of scheduling conflicts.

Clemens is accused of lying to Congress in 2008 when he denied using steroids or human growth hormone.

Tinian Turquoise Blue returns June 2

The 12th Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim will be staged in the blue waters and under the blue skies of Tinian on June 2.

Japan's Triathlon Magazine and returning champion Hidea Miyazuka, along with over 30 other competitors, are expected on the island of Tinian, renowned throughout the region for its quiet natural beauty, prehistoric latte stone monoliths, and fiery hot peppers.

The triathlon will feature two course: the A-type course is a 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km bike, and 10-km run.

The longer B-type course is a 2-km swim, 90-km bike, and 21-km run. The reef swim will offer three courses—1.5 km, 3 km, and 4.5 km.

"One of the real beauties of the Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim is that there is no time limit, so everyone who comes can have the satisfaction of completing the race without being disqualified because of time," said Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "We're very excited about this year's event."

The event is co-sponsored by the MVA, Tinian Mayor's Office, and Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Registration costs are: $80 for solo triathletes, $60/each for triathlon teams of two or three members, and $60 for reef swim only (all distances). Registration fee includes the awards party on event day, T-shirt, and swim cap. Registration will be held at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino poolside on June 1 from 5pm to 7pm, with the mandatory pre-race briefing from 6pm to 7pm at the same venue. Cash payment only.

For more information or to register, contact Vida Borja at vborja@mymarianas.com or 433-9363 or Frank Tudela at ftudela@mymarianas.com or 664-3210 or visit the events calendar at www.mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The 12th Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim will be held on June 2.

COMETS

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The trio of Aurel Mendiola, Ethan Babauta, and Erik Cruz headline this year's 2012 Saipan Major League All-Stars and they will be joined by DPS Dare Program-Enforcers' Kier Agda and Joaquin Saralu, Pacific Amusement-Rays' Jay Kalen and Nathaniel Torres, IT&E-Ol'Aces Virgil Secharmidal and Matt Kapileo, Natibu Sports Association-Talaabwogh Falcons' Benen Iguel, Bank of Saipan-Red Sox's Ryan Aguon, As Matuis Twins' Richard John Atalig, Natibu-Talaabwogh Braves' Brandon Pua, and San Vicente A's Christian Lizama.

Comets' Antonio Camacho was selected as team manager, while Rays' Kent Kalen and A's Peter Tomokane will serve as head coach and assistant coach, respectively.

The all-star roster includes the division's Top 8 sluggers, including batting champ Mendiola, who finished the season with 32 hits in 42 at bats for a stellar 0.762 batting average. Agda (0.647), Babauta (0.630), Torres (0.600), Iguel (0.576), Secharmidal (0.560), Kalen (0.545), and Atalig (0.500) also made it in the top sluggers list.

Mendiola also led the division in runs batted in with 20 ahead of Agda (18), Secharmidal (17), Atalig (16), Iguel (12), Red Sox's Delin Reusora (11), Cruz (11), and Comets' Austin Hocog (11).

Agda's nine long balls allowed him to win the home run race, finishing the year with three more than Mendiola, while Secharmidal and Atalig cranked out three apiece for a share of third place.

Mendiola's five triples topped the category ahead of Secharmidal (5) with eight others finishing with two apiece.

Mendiola also scored 29 runs this year, eight ahead of Secharmidal and Enforcers' Dennis Cabrera with Babauta (21), Agda (20), Atalig (19), and Iguel (19) all in the mix.

The all star group also boasts at least 10 players with pitching experience starting with now two-time league earned run average leader Cruz (6-0) who gave up just five runs off 14 hits this season through 30 innings over eight appearances for a league-best 1.00 ERA.

If the Saipan Major League All-Stars win the district title they will get a chance to compete for the Asia-Pacific Regional Championship hosted this year by Vietnam in July. The winner of that tourney will then represent the region in the 2012 Little League World Series in Williamsport, Virginia.

The CNMI Major League District Tournament will be held from June 3 to June 11 at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

Santiago Jets II, or the IT&E Fielders lightly.

Jets II is in line to challenge the Fielders either tomorrow or this weekend to clinch a semifinals berth against the hungry Falcons, weather permitting.

League officials are trying to coordinate scheduling adjustments, including the Junior Division playoffs, but heavy rain has prevented any progress.

Little League postseason action is scheduled to continue today at 4pm if the field is playable.

BIG DIVISION
Ol'Aces 16, Hustlers 11

Ol'Aces broke an early 2-2 tie from the first two innings with three runs in the top of the third off a two-RBI double by Jake Santos that scored Keoni Lizama and Harry Nakamura. Santos found his own way to the plate.

The Hustlers then made it, 3-5, in the bottom frame thanks to a wild pitch. Pitcher Brian Camacho then made a big stand in the top of the fourth inning, which enabled his teammates to seize control, 6-5, in the bottom portion off three hits.

MacJarrel Espina led off with a double and was driven to the plate by Manny Flores just after Kevin Villagomez scored off a wild pitch. MacGarrette Duenas later brought in Flores.

Ol'Aces countered with two runs in the top of the fifth inning to push in front, 7-6, off an error and a wild pitch.

But the Hustlers showed them up with four runs in the bottom frame off six hits. Espina singled in Jonakin Deleon Guerrero and was brought home by Villagomez, after which Flores cleaned up with a double and worked his own way around the diamond.

Ol'Aces' reliever Nakamura found his zone after a pair of shaky innings and held the Hustlers to just one run in the last three frames of the match.

Ol'Aces pulled within a run in the sixth off an RBI base rip by Lizama and a sacrifice fly by Rocco Reyes and took the lead, 11-10, in the top of the last inning of regulation with an RBI single by Lamarc Iguel and a costly RBI walk with the bases loaded.

The Hustlers still would not die, however, and worked around the run needed to force extra innings from Villagomez who hustled out an infield error and stole the dish in the clutch, but the Ol'Aces cranked out five big runs in the top of the bonus frame to seal the deal.

They bashed five hits including a triple by Santos, an RBI base hit by Carlos Rabauliman, and a two-RBI single by Lizama. Diego Camacho busted a double before coming home and Iguel was credited with an RBI in the mix.

Ol'Aces' Santos batted 4-for-4 with three RBIs, three runs, and a base on balls. Hustlers' ninth batter Espina swung 4-for-4 with an RBI and two runs.

Hustlers 11, Fielders 3

The Hustlers quickly stamped three runs in the first inning off an RBI single by Brian Camacho and a two-RBI double by Dave Demapan. The Fielders got one back though in the bottom frame off an error.

Both teams cooled off for a couple of innings until the Hustlers pushed ahead, 7-1, in the top of the fourth off four hits. Kevin Villagomez drove in Tim Rabago, MacJarrel Espina scored off an error, while Camacho bagged another RBI single before scoring off a wild throw in the infield.

The Fielders only responded with one run in the bottom side from a base rip by Vince Castro and the count shifted to 8-3 after the fifth inning as both teams brought a run to the dish.

Smelling blood, the Hustlers threw on three more in the next two innings mainly off errors and aggressive base running.

Winning pitcher Jeremy Lizama gave up two earned runs off five hits and two walks with two strikeouts through five innings.

Hustlers' Villagomez batted 3-for-4 with three runs and a base on balls.

SENIOR DIVISION
Ol'Aces 11, Falcons 5

The Ol'Aces established an early 2-0 lead in the first inning off a triple by A.J. Lizama that scored Lancaster Secharmidal and an RBI single by Jun Rabauliman that brought in Lizama.

The Ol'Aces' defense pulled out a double play to end the top side of the second, but left two runners at the doorstep in the bottom frame.

The Falcons hit the board with a run in the third inning off an error, but the Ol'Aces obliged with two more runs in the bottom frame off four hits.

A.J. Lizama led off with a single and was singled in by T.J. Sablan who was eventually escorted to the plate by Zackary Yamagishi.

The Ol'Aces then rounded up the Falcons in another double play to close the fourth inning and exploded with four runs in the bottom frame off three hits and a pair of fielder's choices, shooting ahead, 8-1.

The Falcons managed to bring in one run in the top of the fifth off an error, but the Ol'Aces trotted away, 11-2, in the bottom frame off a string of three hits that loaded the bases for a bases-clearing triple by Lizama.

The Falcons managed three runs off the Ol'Aces reliever Lizama in the last two innings, but never posed as a serious threat.

Backed by a stout defense, Ol'Aces winning pitcher Camacho gave up zero earned runs off five hits and two walks with two strikeouts through five innings.

His teammate Lizama also had a great game and swung 3-for-4 with four RBIs, three runs, and a stolen base.

GUAM

From Page 28

big men to operate.

The ploy worked early as Tinian managed to keep abreast of the normally prolific Guam team and were down by just a deuce, 12-14.

Sammy Setik, however, put Tinian in its proper place come the second quarter. The whippet-quick guard scored 9 points, including a triple, to almost single-handedly tow Guam to a 43-20 lead at the break.

That 23-point spread will become 25 after the third quarter, as 6'3" center Michael Sakazaki finally asserted himself in the low blocks, pumping in eight markers.

With a 61-36 deficit, Nabors turned to Daruis Pettis and the hotshot delivered, firing 8 of his game-high 18 points in the payoff period.

Behind Pettis' heroics, Tinian was able to trim Guam's lead to below 20 points in several occasions before losing by 21.

In the end, Nabors and company got a measure of respect from the local crowd and probably even from their Guam counterparts for limiting the explosive team to a tourney low 74 points.

Sakazaki and Setik went on to lead Guam with 14 and 13 points, respectively. Tinian, which dropped to a 1-3 win-loss record was led by the aforementioned 18 markers of Pettis.

In other completed games yesterday, Palau hiked its record to 3-1 following an 80-50 rout of CNMI 2. The loss was the third in four games for the home team.

Saipan 1, meanwhile, scored its first win of the competition after blasting sister team Saipan 2, 60-40. Saipan 2 is winless in three outings.

On Tuesday night, CNMI 1 rebounded from its 66-108 loss to Guam earlier in the day with a 143-33 shellacking of Saipan 2. The win improved the islands' de facto 17-and-under national team to 3-1.

Prior to the CNMI 1-Saipan 2 tiff, Guam wiped the floor clean of Saipan 1, 93-39.

In the girls tourney over at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, Guam trounced CNMI 2, 104-11, to remain perfect at 2-0.

Joylyn Pangilinan led the U.S. territory with 23 points, while Alina Bonto added 19. CNMI 2 was led by the 4 points of Danica Canedo.

In the later game, CNMI 1 kept pace with their archrivals following a 93-48 victory over Tinian.

As usual Kaylani Lebria paced five CNMI 1 players in double figures with 17, while Tinian was bannered by the 35 of high-scoring Regene Palacios.

Guam 74 – Sakazaki 14, Sammy Setik 13, Oledan 12, Merrill 11, Blas 7, Quichocho 7, Jose 4, Flores 4, Taitano 1, Sam Setik 1.

Tinian 53 – Pettis 18, Babauta 14, E. Borja 5, Cabrera 5, I. Borja 4, Sanchez 4, Maui 3.

Scoring by quarters: 14-12, 43-20, 61-36, 74-53.

COCOS

From Page 28

Kento Akimaru, Lennosuke Suzuki, and Taiga Sato.

The four will be joined by SSC assistant coach and XTERRA pro Mieko Carey.

Sunday's event will be 14-year-old Chentsova and 11-year-old Akimaru's second crossing.

Last year, Akimaru finished 22nd out of the 166 participants with a time of 47.55 giving him first place for his age group.

Chentsova, meanwhile, finished 33rd with a time of 51.08 placing her second for her age group.

Also swimming last year were Grace and Andrew Kimball who placed 39th and 55th, respectively, with times of 53:23 and 58:09. The Kimballs have since relocated to Indonesia.

This year, 9-year-olds Suzuki and Sato will swim their first Cocos Crossing. They will not be making their debuts alone though, as Carey will also swim the event for the first time.

All of these swimmers recently prepped for this grueling event by swimming the Escape from Managaha.

Also going to Guam but competing only 2012 Guam Swimming Championships are Rinto Takahashi and Naoki Kasai.

SSC would like to thank the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for their assistance in arranging for the swimmers to stay at the Fiesta Resort Guam.

The club would also like to thank the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation for their support as well as the Guam Swimming Federation and the Manukai Athletic Club for hosting these events.

17th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament

PHOTOS By MARK RABAGO

Korean A's Cheon Yeong Cheol was named the best singles player of the 17th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament held last May 12 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Doubles runner-up Park Tae Won of Saipan B and Jeong Mi Jeong of Korea A pose with Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association president Steve Lim.

Doubles champion Cheon Yeong Cheol of Korean A and Park Tae Won of Saipan B pose with MATTA president Steve Lim.

Korean, Saipan, Tinian, and Guam players pose for a group shot after the awards banquet of the 17th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament held on the evening of May 12 at Saipan World Resort.

The Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium was abuzz with activity with the staging of the 17th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament last May 12.

Saipan A's Budhi Gurung in action against teammate Steve Lin during last May 12's 17th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament.

Saipan A's Steve Lim serves to teammate Budhi Gurung during last May 12's 17th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament.

Tinian's Su Yong Dong in action against a Korean A player during last May 12's 17th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament.

Charlie Cheng in action against Korean A's Cheon Yeong Cheol during last May 12's 17th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament.

James, Wade lead Heat to win over Pacers, 115-83

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Pena's big shot leads Rays over Jays

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Comets lead Major all-stars

Aurel Mendiola is one of three Rep. Joseph P. Guerrero-Dandan Comets who made the roster of the Saipan Major League All-Stars that will compete in the CNMI Little League District Tournament set next month.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Three players from the Major Division champion team Rep. Joseph P. Guerrero's champion Dandan Comets spearhead the island's all-star selection that will compete in the CNMI Little League District Tournament set next month.

See COMETS on Page 26

Ol' Aces teams advance to Big, Senior finals

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Docomo Pacific-Ol'Aces teams in the Senior and Big leagues advanced to the championships of their respective divisions last weekend before rain suspended most of the Saipan Little League matchups at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Big League Ol'Aces overcame the Paradise Island Animal Hospital-Hustlers, 16-11, on Saturday.

However, the latter rebounded against the IT&E Fielders on Sunday, 11-3, to get another crack at its rival in the team's second consecutive finals appearance.

Meanwhile, the Senior Ol'Aces downed the Natibu Sports Association-Talaabwogh Falcons, 11-5, also on Sunday, but is still awaiting to see who they will face in the finals.

The 2011 champion Docomo Pacific teams finished first place during the regular season this year just like their Junior Division counterparts who are sponsored by Haiwaya Technologies, Inc.

The Hustlers have came out on the short end against the Ol'Aces three out of the last four times they clashed going back to last year's championship match, which resulted in a 4-3 decision, although the Hustlers are hardly a group to undermine.

Both squads are equipped with a lot of depth up and down their lineups and both know how to swing a bat and run bases.

The Ol'Aces are the proven and more experienced of the two teams. However, the Hustlers have been coming along in recent years and believe strongly that they are overdue to hoist the Big League trophy.

Needless to say it should be another exciting display of two powerhouse squads battling it out for all the marbles.

The Ol'Aces are led by league batting champ and workhorse pitcher Harry Nakamura, while the Hustlers rookie standout Brian Camacho is also topping the charts, especially from the mound.

The Senior Ol'Aces finished the year undefeated at 12-0 and are the favorites to win the title, but they must not take the Falcons, Juan

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Guam boys roll to fifth straight triumph in MBT

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Guam U17 national team faced its stiffest challenge yet when it took on a very physical Tinian team yesterday, but remained perfect with a 74-53 victory as the boys 17-and-under Micronesian Basketball Tournament continued at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The U.S. territory had been blowing out the opposition in their previous four games an average of 69 points, including a 91-39 pasting of Saipan 1 team in the later game Tuesday night.

But Tinian coach Keith Nabors delivered on his promise to give the powerhouse team a run for its money and did so by bodying up on Guam's athletic swingmen and packing up the paint to make it difficult for the U.S. territory's

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MARK RABAGO

Guam's Neal Taitano is hemmed in by a Tinian defender during their game in the boys 17-and-under Micronesian Basketball Tournament yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Cocos Crossing also await SSC standouts

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Last year's Cocos Crossing participants from the Saipan Swim Club Andrew Kimball, Kento Akimaru, Victoria Chentsova, and Grace Kimball pose for a photo. Also shown are Lennosuke Suzuki, Taiga Sato, and SSC assistant coach Lisa Kimball.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Aside from competing in Saturday's 2012 Guam Swimming Championships, four of Saipan Swim Club's standouts will also take part in the 22nd Annual Cocos Crossing set for this Sunday.

The four that will take on the 2.5-mile challenge from Cocos Island to Merizo Pier in the southern part of the U.S. territory are Victoria Chentsova,

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